MARVEL COMICS

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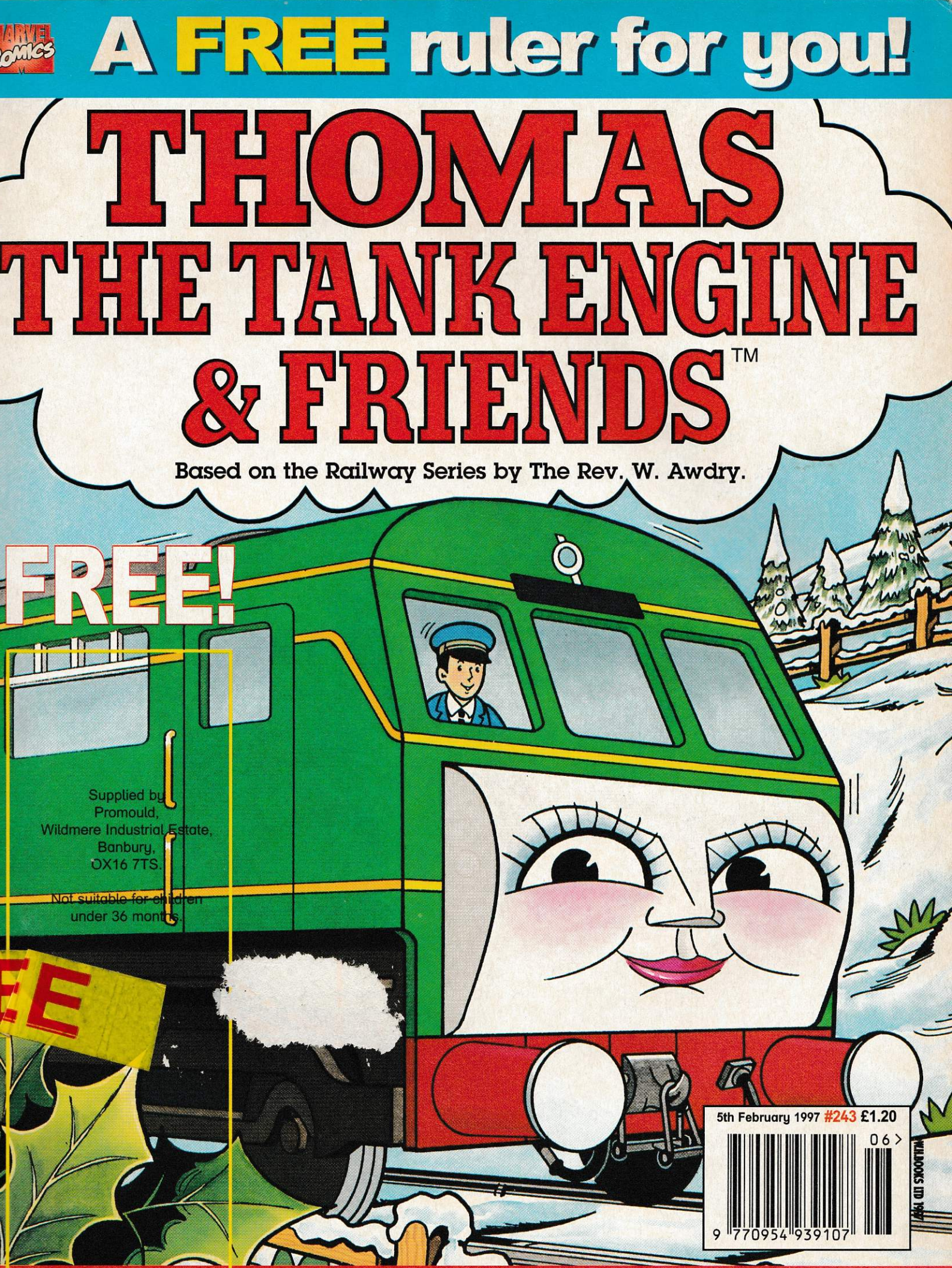
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



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5th February 1997 #243 £1.20

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WILDBOOKS LTD 1997

Lots of engine fun!

Hello, everybody!

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Island of Sodor Railway

This comic belongs to

.....

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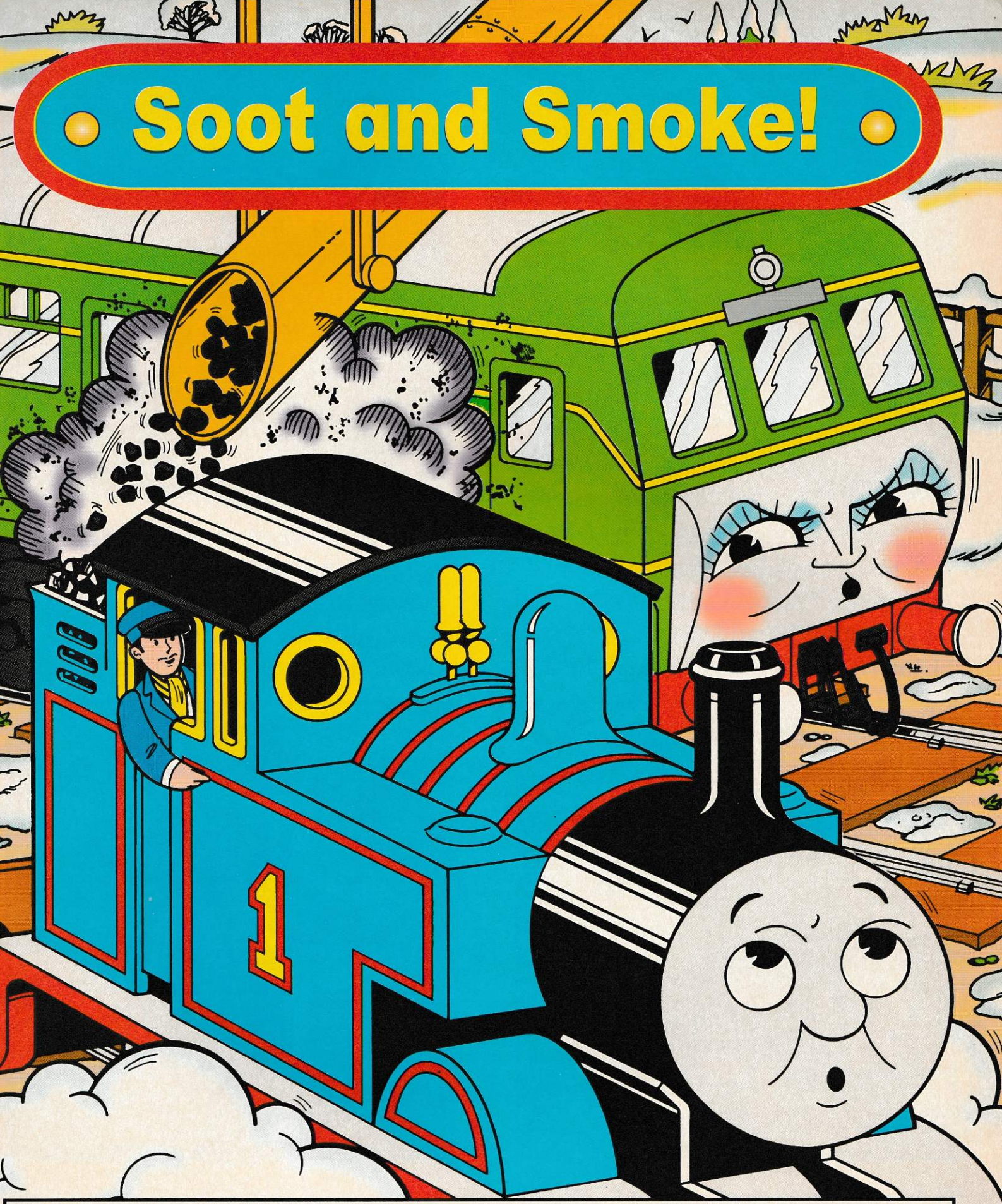
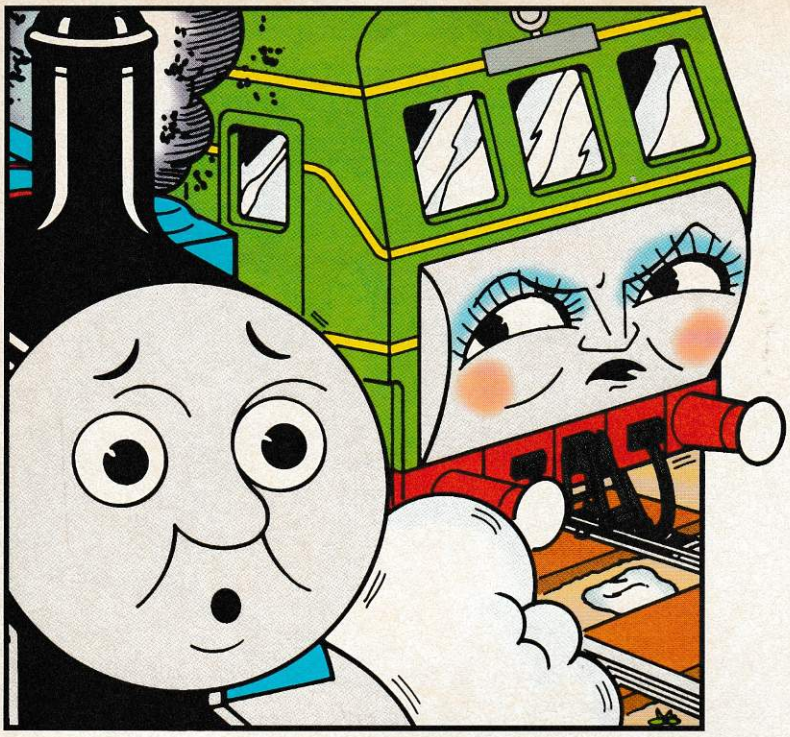
Soot and Smoke!



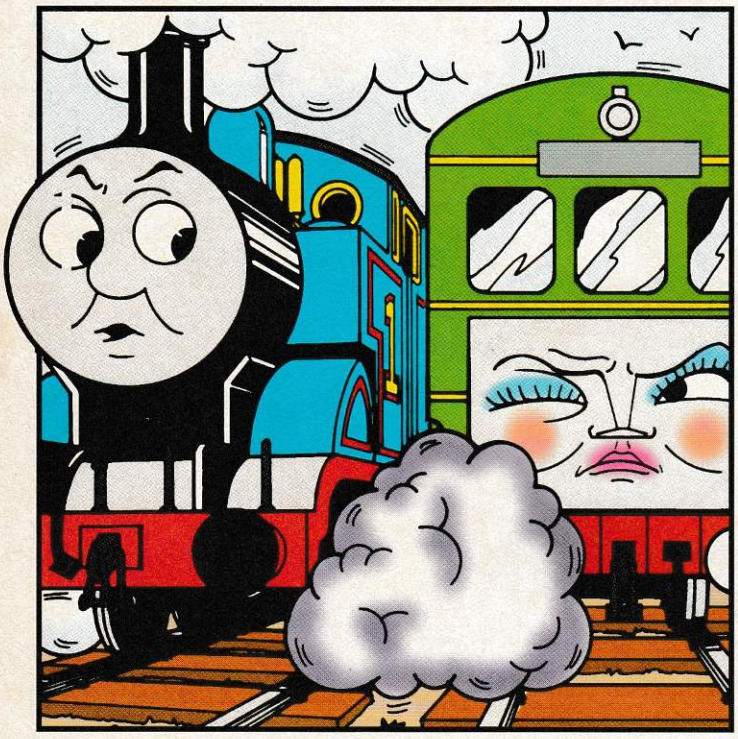
1. Daisy and the steam engines were good friends. But, sometimes, she annoyed them because she was always boasting about being a modern and clean diesel engine.

2. One morning, Thomas was standing under the coal chute to have his bunker filled. Daisy passed by and some dust blew into her face "Careful, Thomas!" she cried.

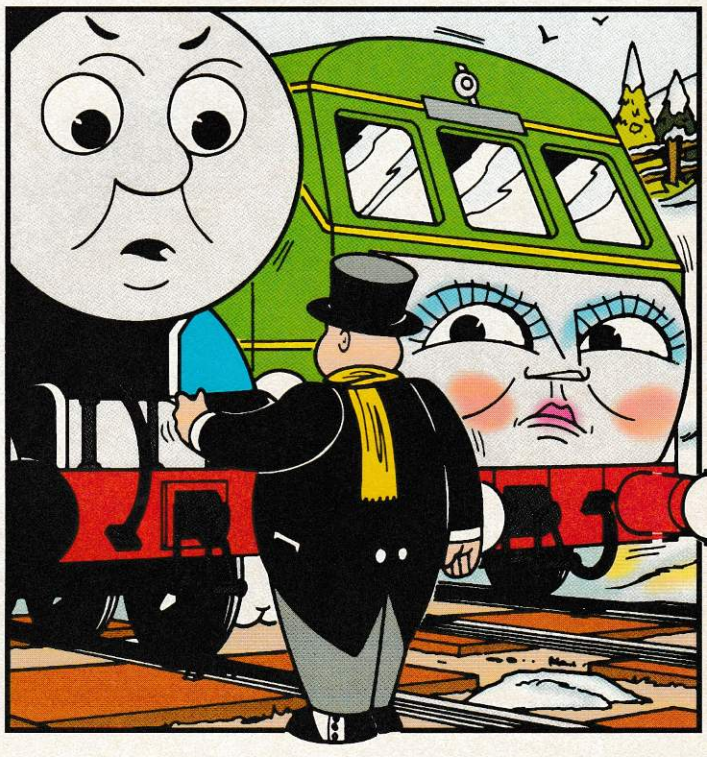


3. “Sorry! But it wasn’t my fault,” he replied as Daisy coughed and spluttered. “Steam engines should be scrapped!” said Daisy, crossly. “They’re old-fashioned and dirty!”

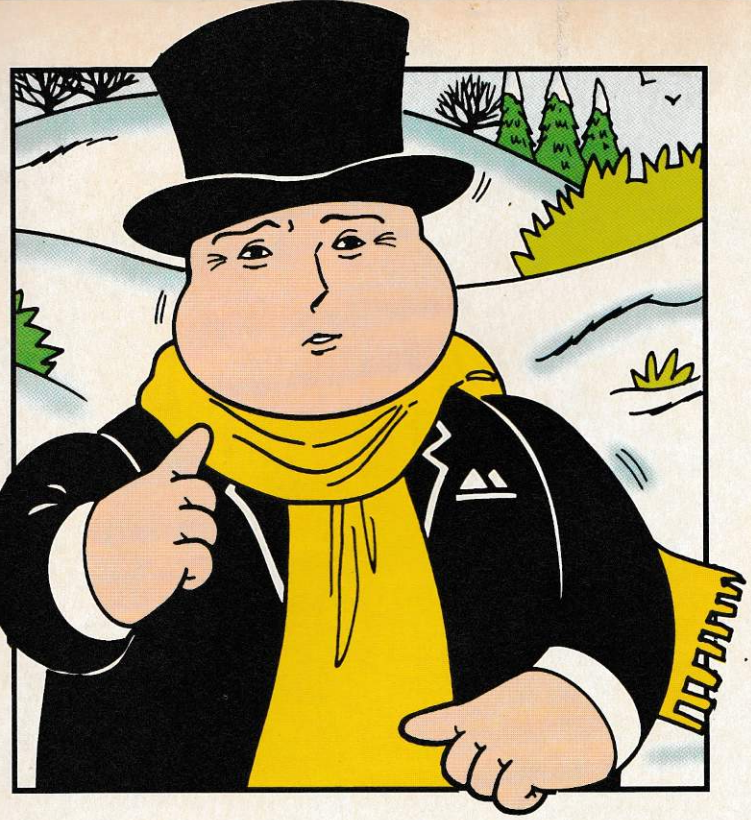
4. To make matters worse, Thomas’ fireman shovelled more coal into his firebox to help him get up a head of steam. So he chuffed forwards, blowing out smoke from his funnel.



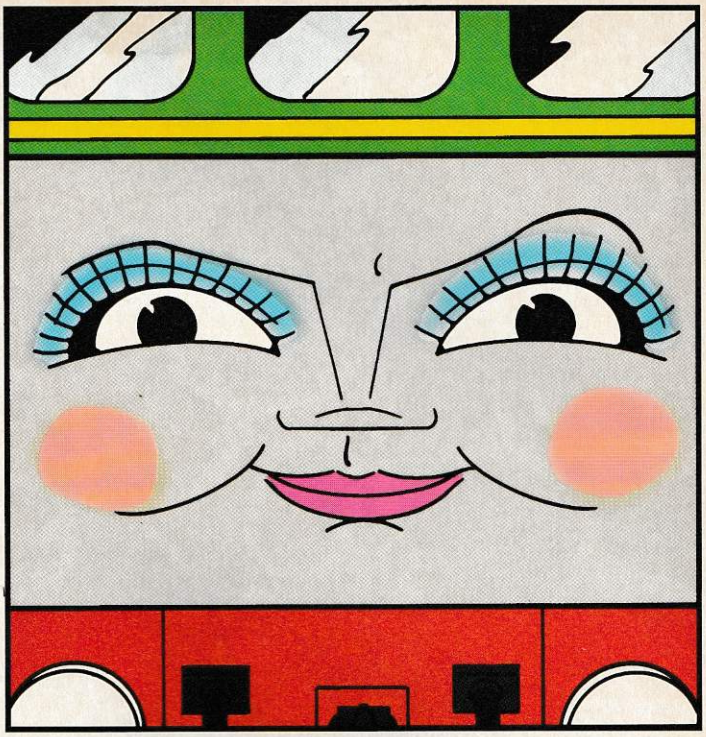
5. It was windy and wisps of smoke drifted into Daisy’s eyes. “Now see what you’ve done,” she cried. “I’ll be as messy as you, Thomas!”
“It wasn’t much smoke,” he called.



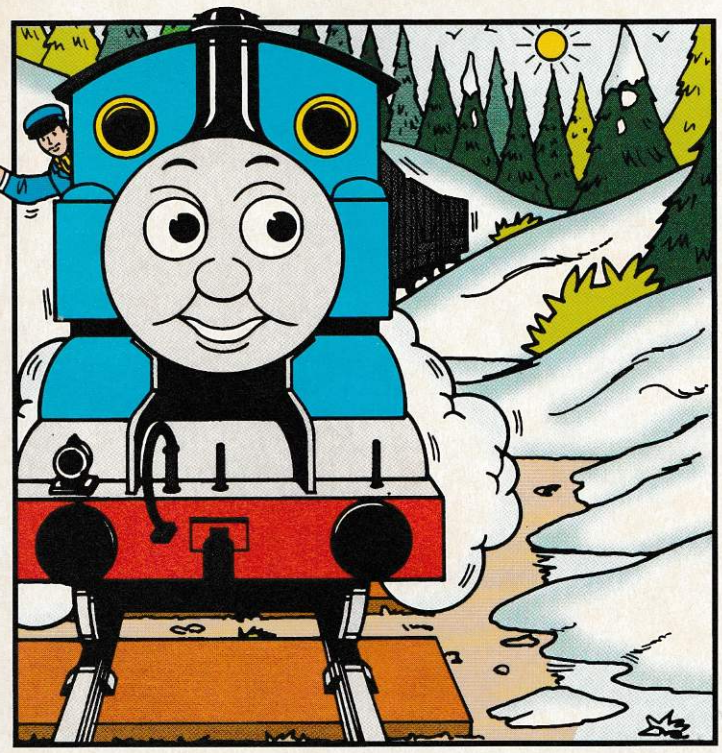
6. As usual, Daisy was making a big fuss. The commotion brought the Fat Controller over to find out what was wrong. “Dirty steam engines, that’s what, Sir!” sulked Daisy.



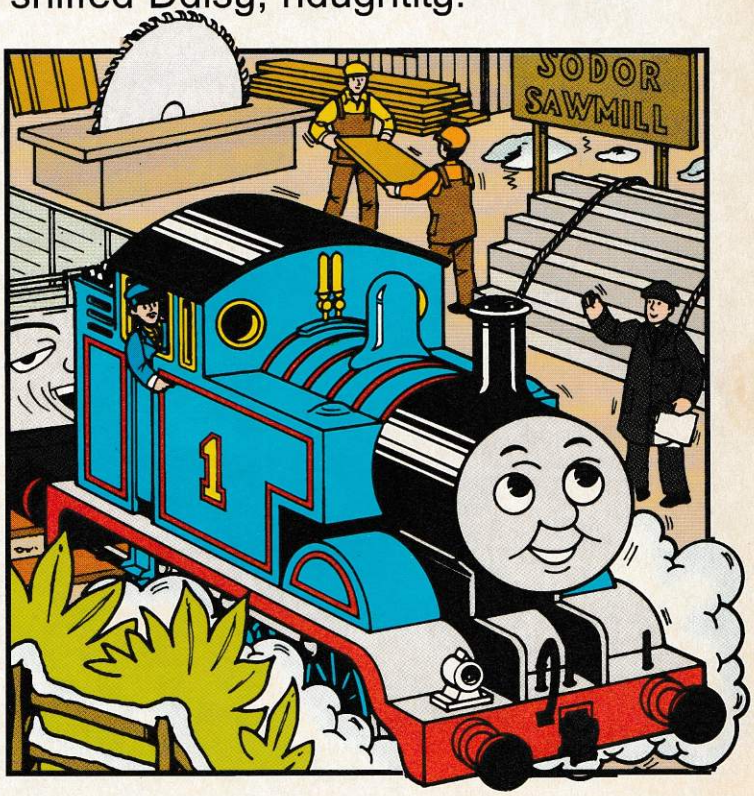
7. “All of my engines are Really Useful, Daisy, including the steam ones,” the Fat Controller told her. “Now I have two very important jobs for you and Thomas to do.”



8. Thomas was to collect timber from the sawmill and Daisy was to take a passenger train. “I’m glad I’m not going to the dirty sawmill,” sniffed Daisy, haughtily.



9. “I don’t mind,” smiled Thomas. He soon set off, pulling some empty trucks. Thomas enjoyed the journey to the sawmill. It took him through some beautiful, wintry countryside.



10. The air was fresh and clean. When he arrived, the workmen had stopped sawing wood so there was no sawdust blowing about. “I’m glad I had this job,” said Thomas, happily.

11. Meanwhile, Daisy had to wait at a signal by a factory chimney. Thick smoke drifted all over her. The towering chimney was much bigger and dirtier than Thomas' funnel.

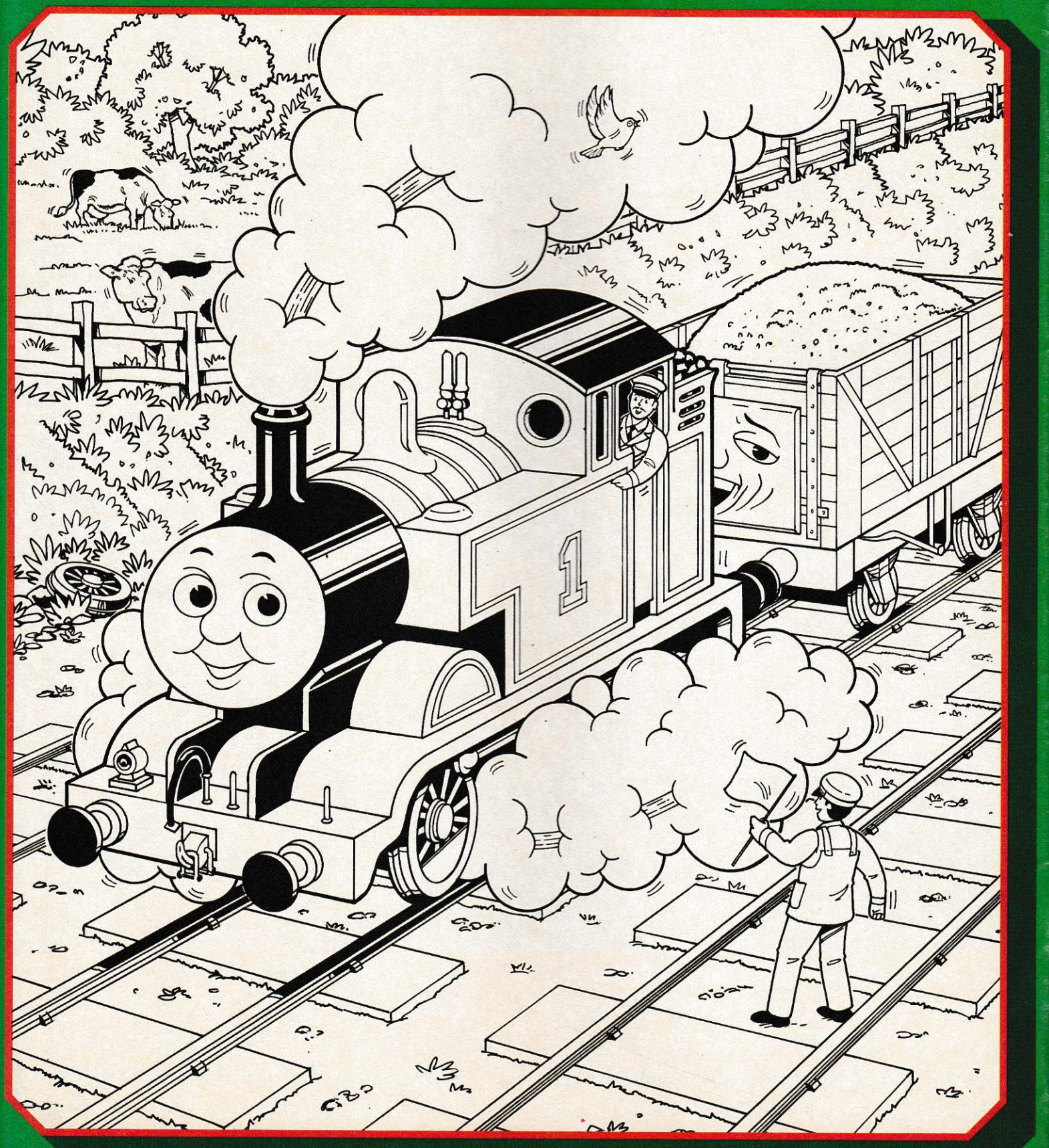
12. Lots of sooty spots settled on Daisy and swirling smoke stung her eyes. She could hardly see. At last, the signal changed and Daisy rolled into a station, away from the smoke.

13. "The factory bus has broken down, so you're taking some workers home," said her driver. When Thomas saw dirty Daisy returning, how he stared at her!

14. "You'll be clean after a wash down, Daisy," he said, hearing what had happened. "It serves me right," said Daisy. "I'll never fuss about steam engines again!"

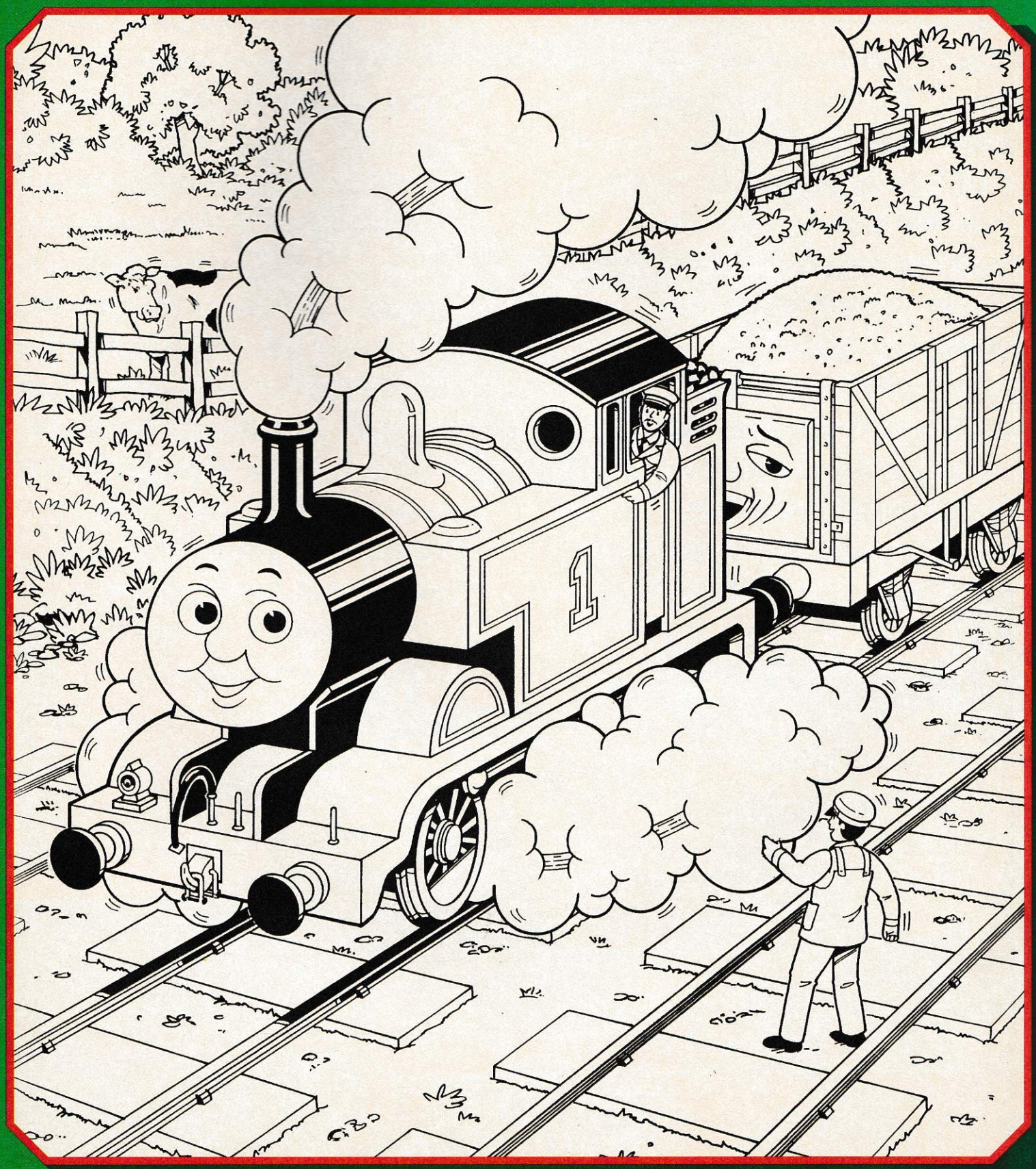
Spot the d

These two pages look the same, but there are
spot the 5 changes? When you have



iffference!

some tiny differences between them! Can you found them all, colour in the pictures!

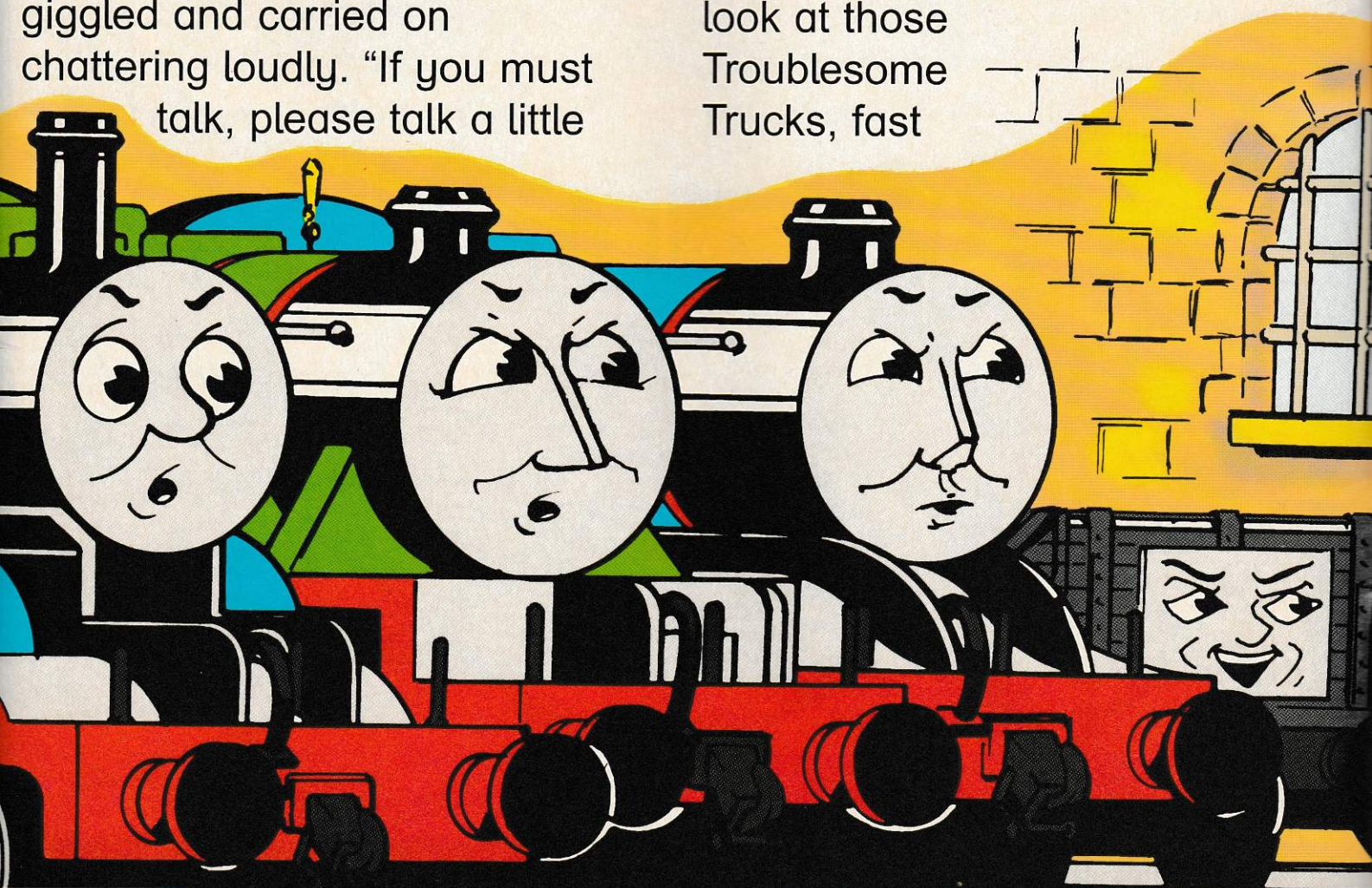


Troublesome Trucks!

One night, the Troublesome Trucks were chattering and making so much noise that the other engines couldn't get to sleep. "Can't you silly trucks be quiet!" Henry snapped. "Some of us are trying to get to sleep!" "Yes, we all need our rest - even you trucks," said Gordon. "We've got important work to do tomorrow!" "Oh don't be such a grump!" said one truck. "Grump, grump, grump!" chanted another truck. Then they all giggled and carried on chattering loudly. "If you must talk, please talk a little more quietly," asked Thomas, politely. But the trucks just laughed and talked even louder.

All the engines were very cross but the naughty trucks didn't care. They chattered and messed around all night long.

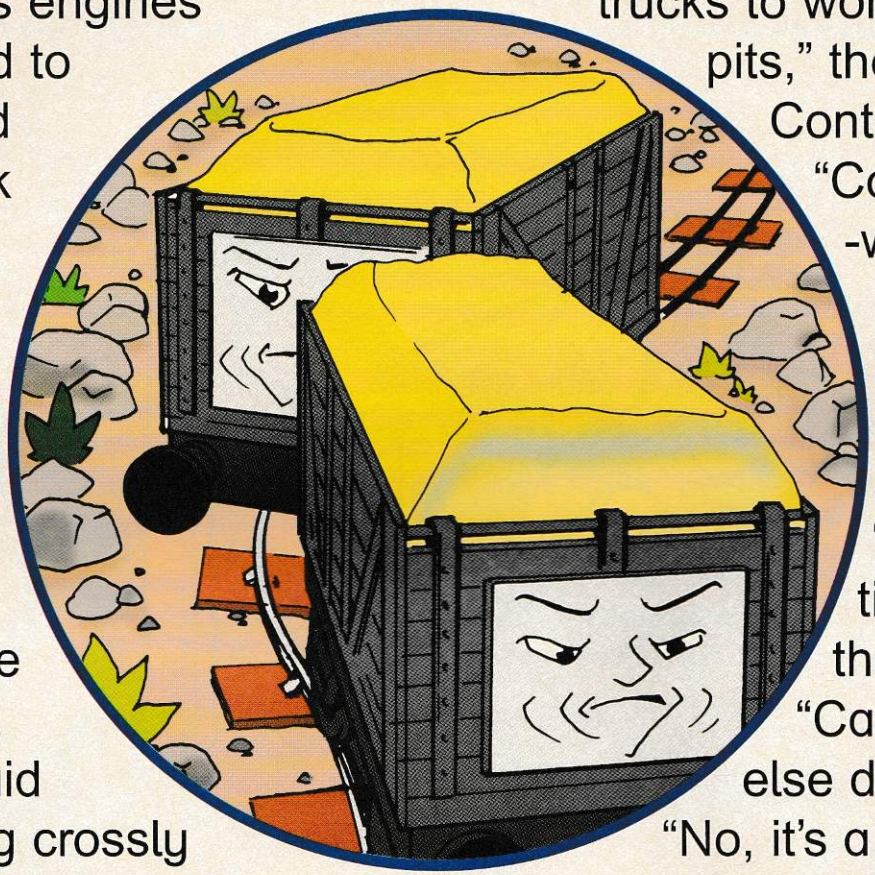
Next morning, the engines were very tired. "Oh dear, I hardly got a wink of sleep with those noisy trucks," yawned Henry. "Neither did I," grumbled Gordon. "I'm going to be much too tired to work today!" "Just look at those Troublesome Trucks, fast



asleep after keeping us awake all night!" said Thomas.

When the Fat Controller came into the shed, Thomas and the others engines tried very hard to look lively and ready for work but they couldn't help yawning. "Goodness me, you look like you've been up all night!" said the Fat Controller. "We have!" said James, glaring crossly at the Troublesome Trucks who had just woken up and were yawning sleepily.

"Well, it's a good job it's a Bank Holiday today then," the Fat Controller smiled. "There are hardly any trains running so there's not much work to do. You've only got one trip each."



The engines were very pleased to hear that. And so were the naughty trucks! They began to doze again. "But I need the trucks to work in the clay pits," the Fat Controller went on. "Come on, wake -wakey!"

The Trucks weren't very pleased about that! "We're too tired to work," they groaned. "Can't someone else do the job?"

"No, it's a job for trucks," said the Fat Controller. "So, come on, look lively!"

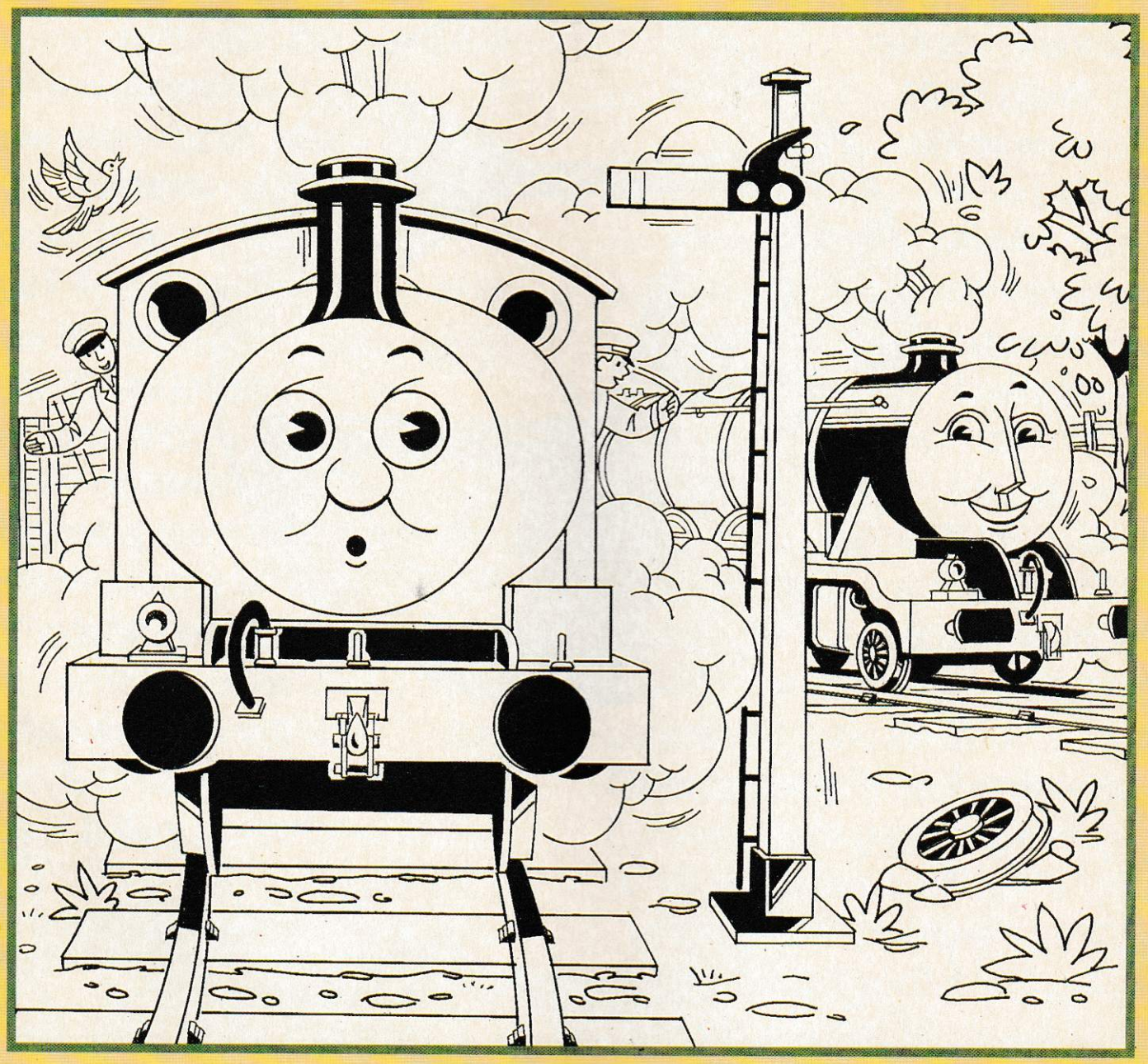
As the naughty trucks went off to work, Gordon said, "That'll teach them to keep everyone awake all night!"

The trucks were busy all day. That night, they were so tired they fell asleep right away! "Well, I think we're going to get a peaceful night's sleep tonight!" chuckled Henry.

He was right. The only noise they heard from the naughty trucks that night, were snores!

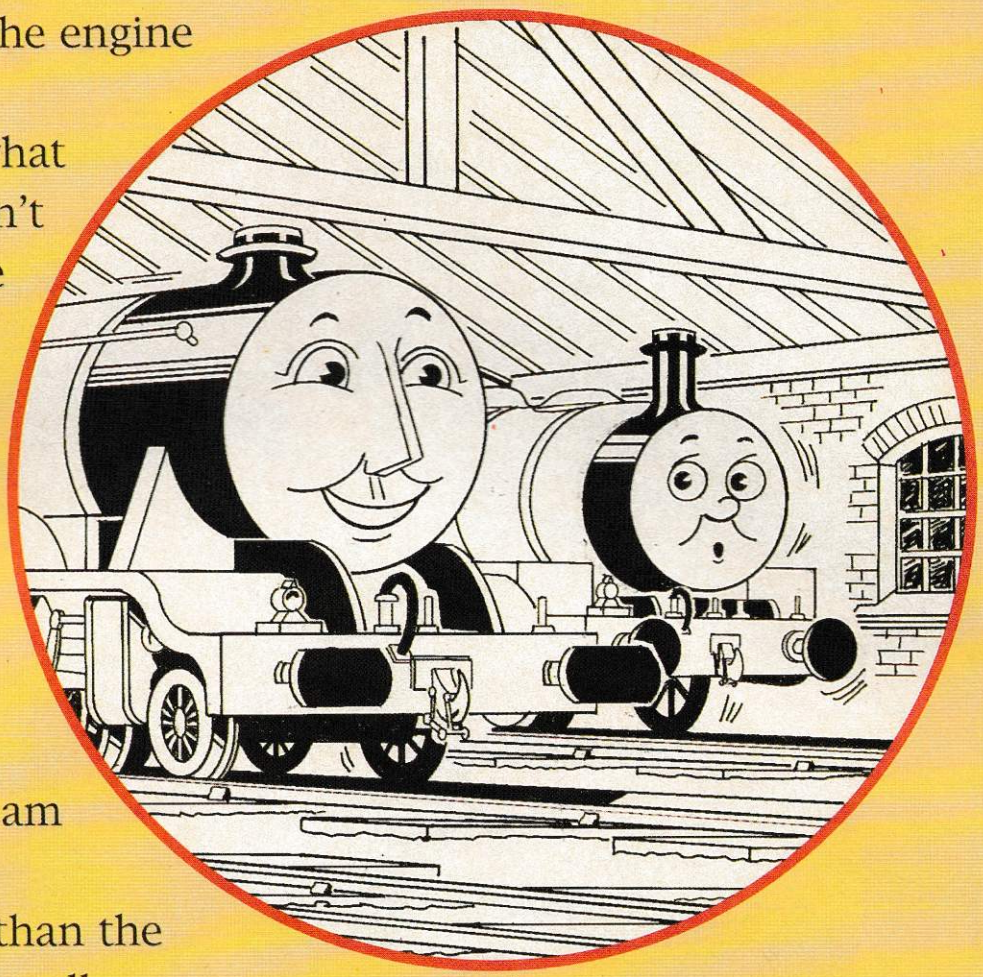
A read & colour story

Percy and Gordon!



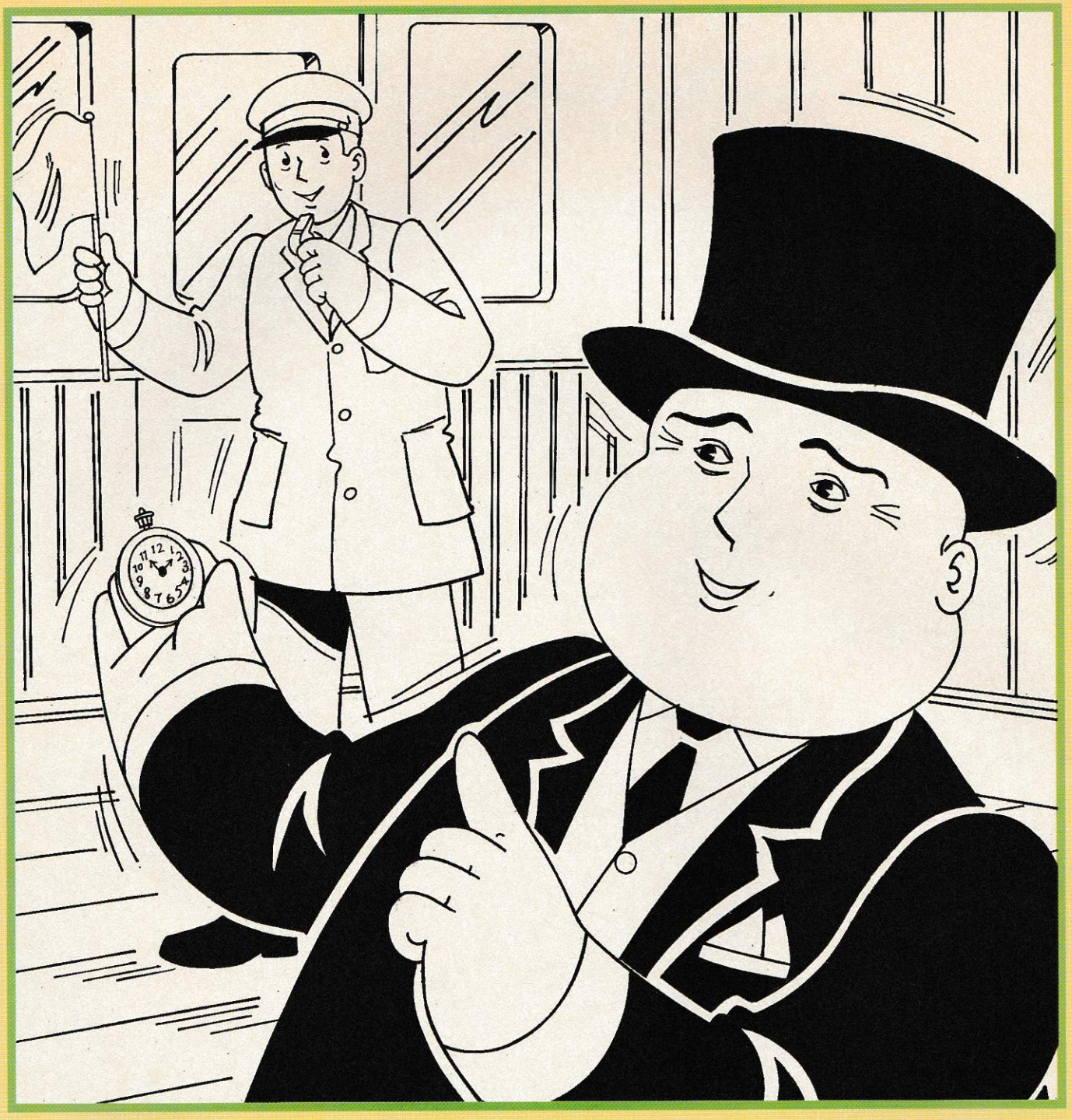
1 One windy day, Percy was shunting trucks when he stopped at a signal. As he waited to join the main line, he watched the wind blow leaves off the trees nearby. Soon, Gordon, pulling the Express, whooshed past. "He's going like the wind today," said Percy's driver. But Percy saw that, as Gordon raced past, he tugged more leaves off the trees than any gust of wind. "Perhaps Gordon is even stronger than the wind..." Percy thought to himself.

2 That night in the engine shed, Percy, still wondering about what he had seen, couldn't sleep. "Gordon," he whispered at last, "are you stronger than the wind?" Gordon, sure that Percy wasn't teasing, was flattered. "Er, well, little Percy," he whispered back, "I am powerful. Yes, I'm probably stronger than the wind," he added grandly.



3 The next morning, there were gales blowing. "Tricky conditions today Percy," the Fat Controller advised him in the yard. "Yes Sir - but not for Gordon!" replied Percy. He then repeated what Gordon had told him. "I see," said the Fat Controller, who wasn't pleased.

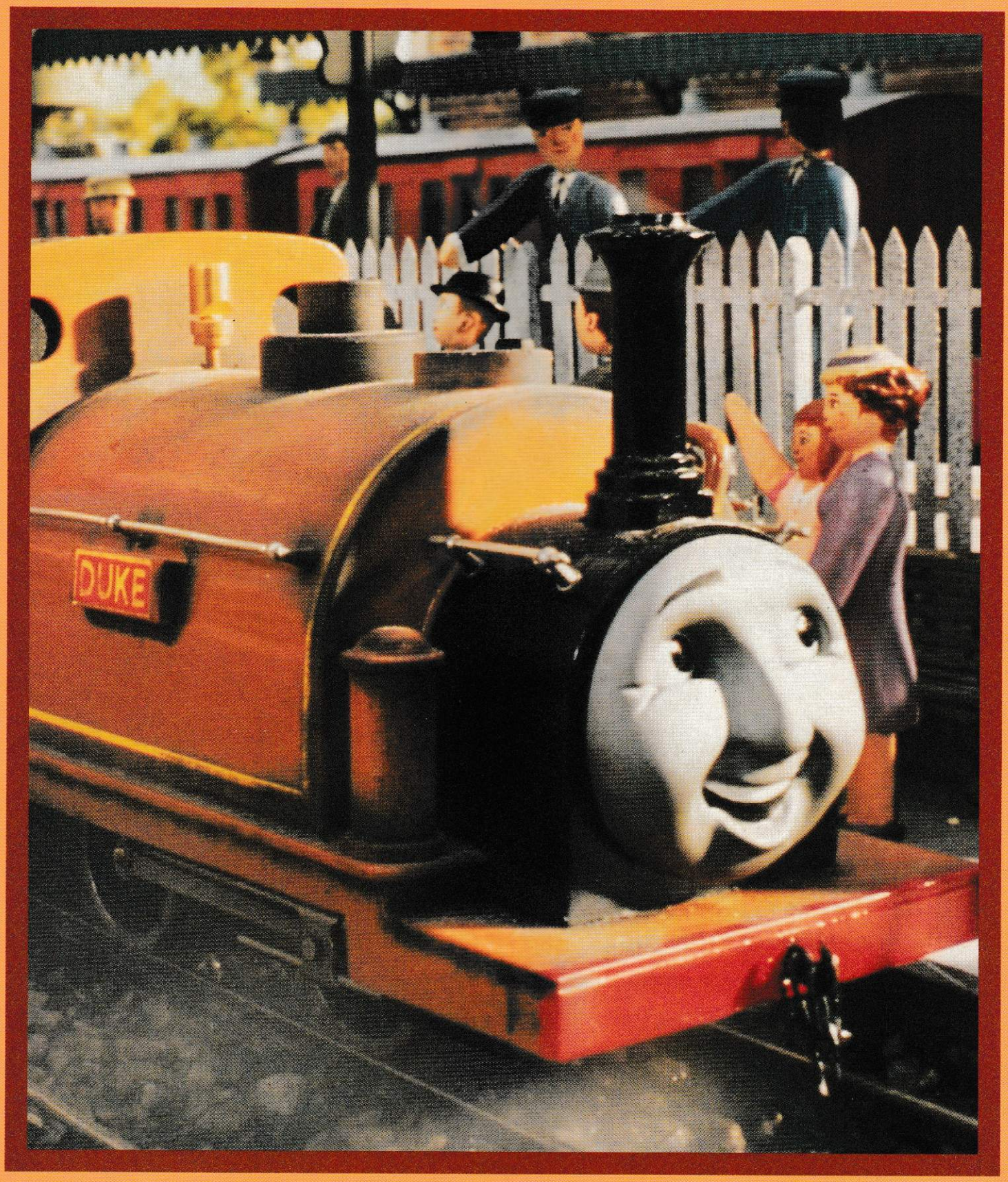
4 The Fat Controller studied his watch, then he told Percy to take over from Thomas on his branch line, as Thomas needed a maintenance check. Soon Percy was pulling Annie and Clarabel up Gordon's hill. On the opposite track, Percy passed Gordon who looked embarrassed, for he was going quite slowly. "No speed today, Gordon? What's wrong?" Percy asked. "Driver says it would be dangerous to go fast ...wind's too, er, strong," muttered Gordon.



5 Percy was confused. Gordon quickly added, "You didn't think I was serious about being stronger than the wind, did you?" It was Percy's turn to be embarrassed. "Er, no, I..." he spluttered, "I knew you were only joking!" The Fat Controller, who was riding in the guard's compartment of Clarabel, smiled at the guard. "I asked Percy to pull this train so he would see he had been silly to believe Gordon's nonsense - perhaps Gordon will think twice before boasting again too!"

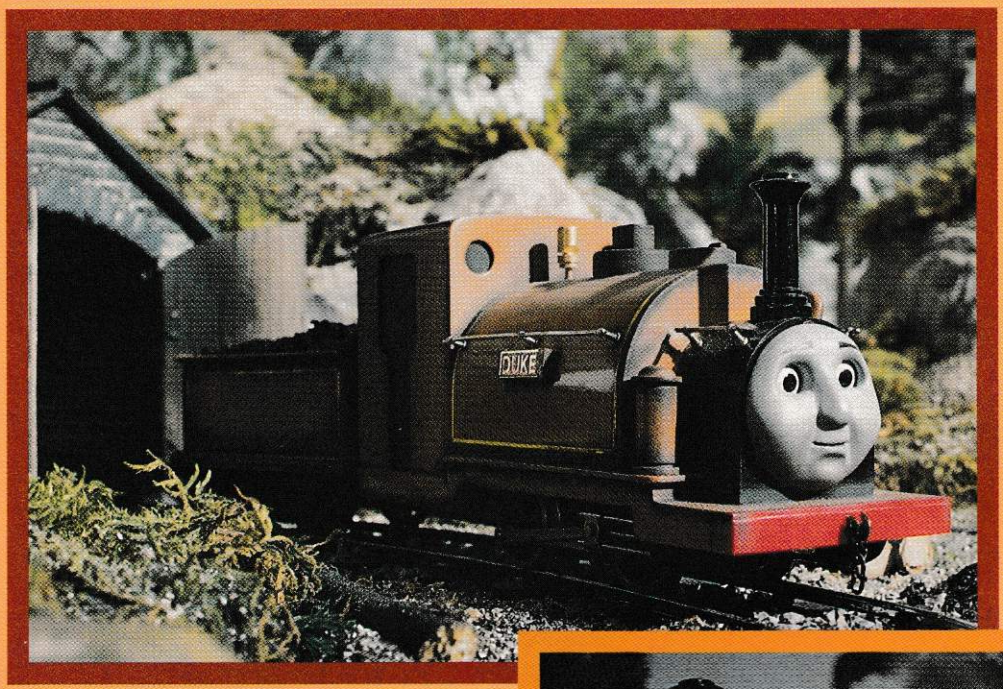
The end

All abou



Duke is the oldest and most experienced of the narrow gauge engines.

ut Duke

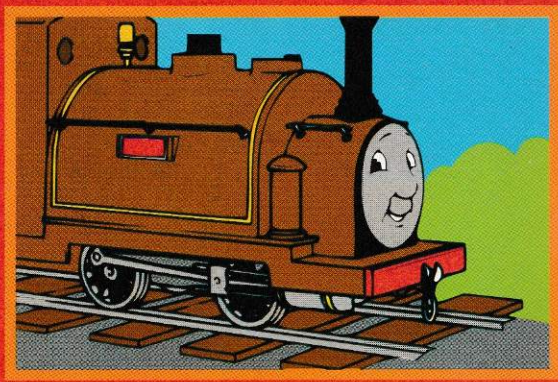


Despite his 'head teacher' attitude, Duke is kind and gentle, especially to younger engines.

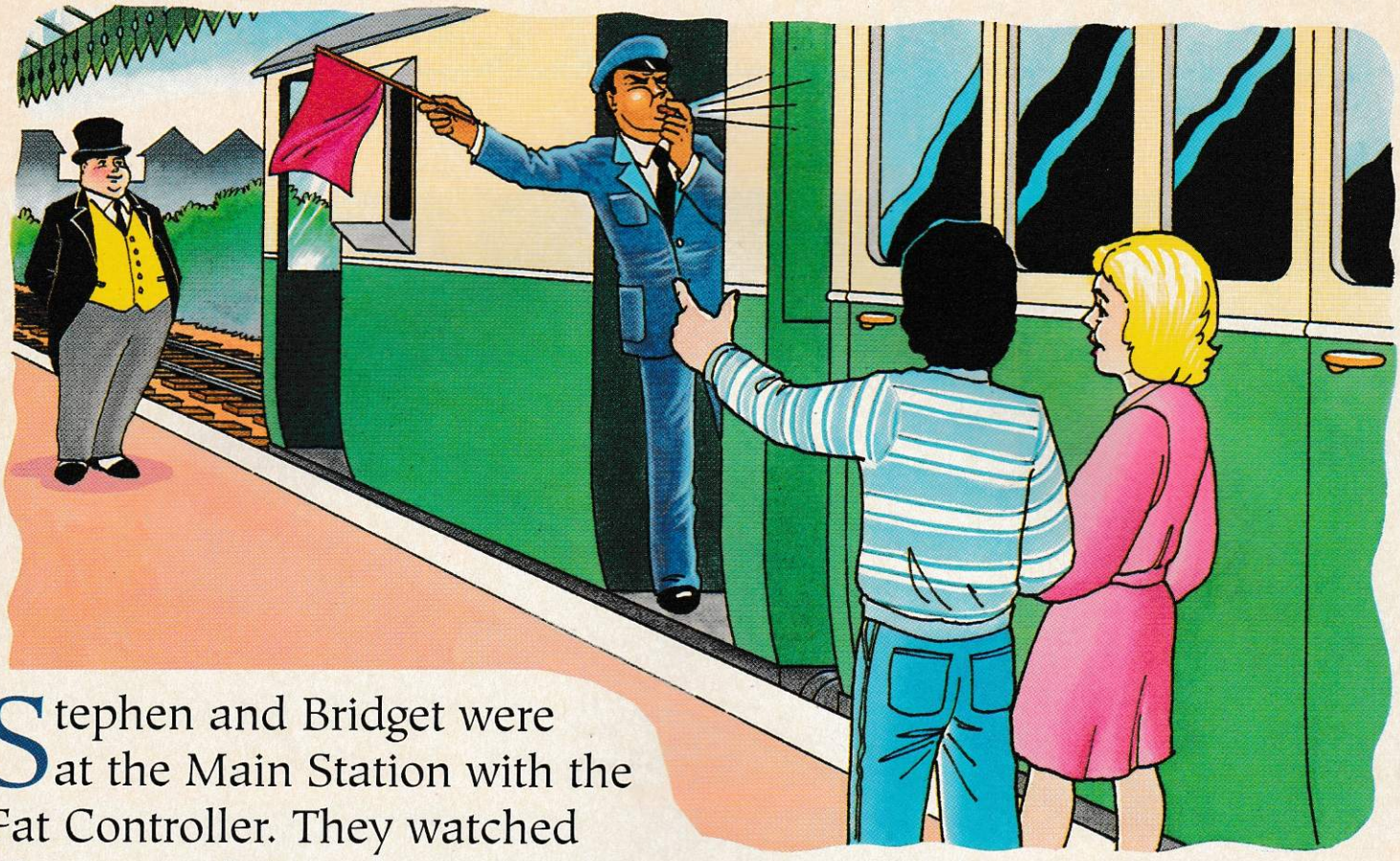
He can get grumpy if things aren't done properly. Duke believes in obeying the rules!

Win a model of Duke!

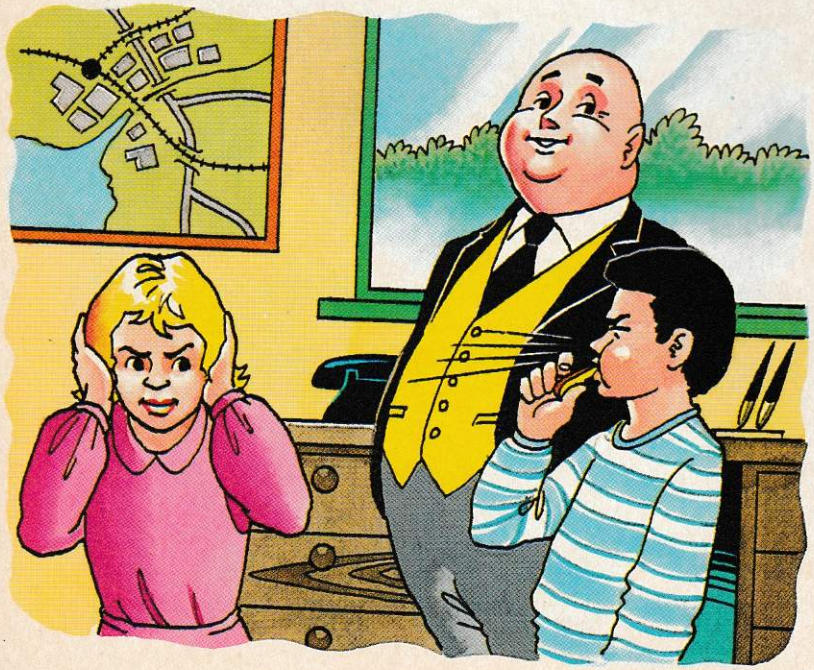
Five lucky winners will win a splendid model of Duke from the ERTL engine range! Just send a post card, with your name, age and address to: Thomas/Duke model competition, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5UJ.
Closing date: 29th January 1996. The first five names out of our postbag after the closing date will win their very own Duke!



Warning Whistle

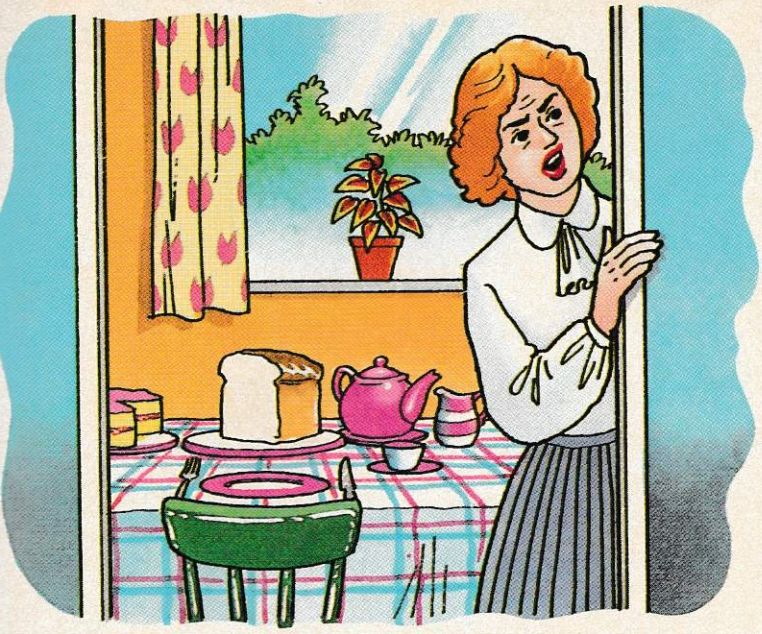


Stephen and Bridget were at the Main Station with the Fat Controller. They watched Thomas and the other engines coming and going. Whenever one was about to leave from a platform, the guard blew his whistle loudly. It could easily be heard over the huffing, puffing and hissing of steam.



The Fat Controller had a spare whistle in his office. When there were no engines standing at the station, he let the children try it. Stephen blew so hard, Bridget put her hands over her ears. "Not so loud!" she cried.

After the Fat Controller had finished work, he took his grandchildren home. Stephen watched television while his sister listened to a radio in the bedroom. The Fat Controller helped Lady Hatt lay out the tea things. When it was ready, she called Stephen and Bridget. But there was no answer. "Tea, you two! Hurry up!" Lady Hatt

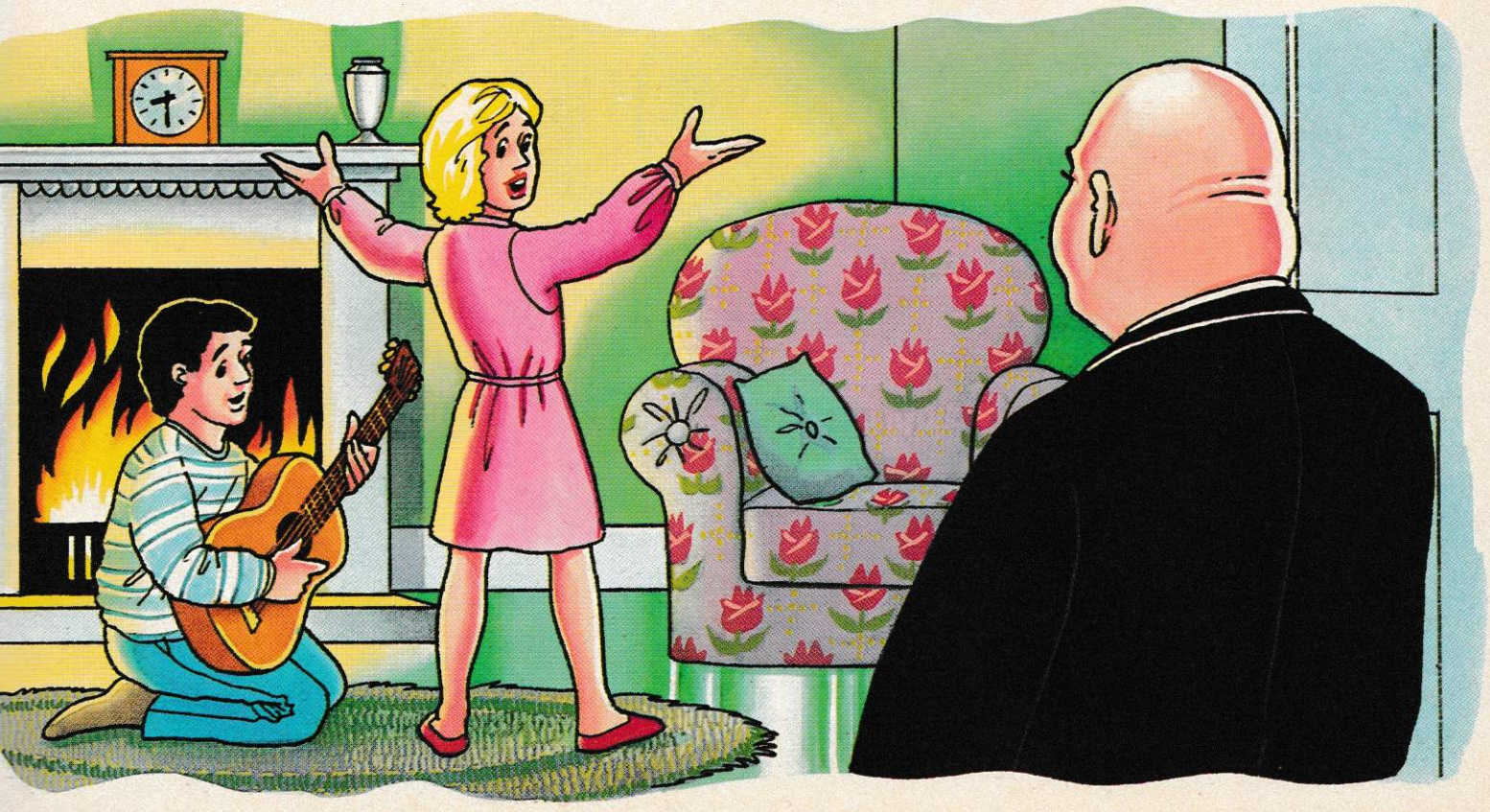


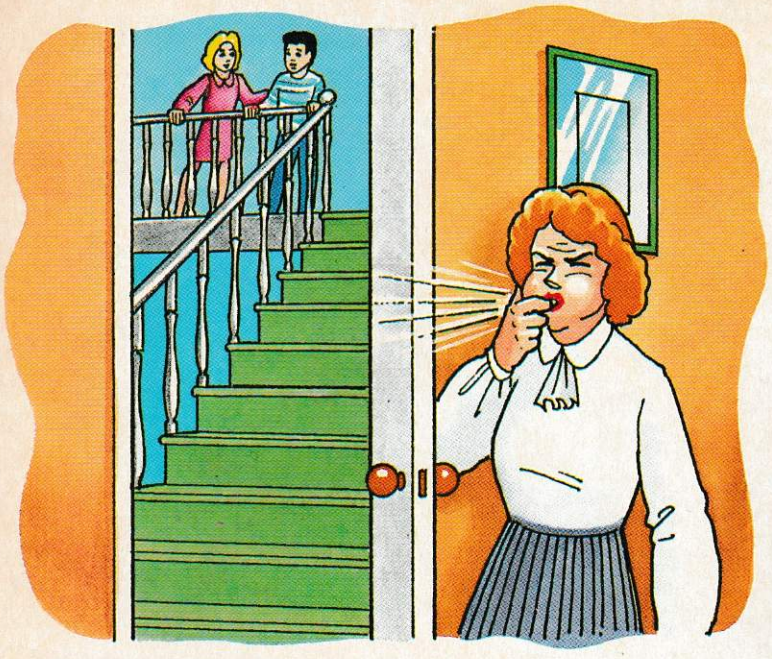
called the children again. Still there was no reply. So the Fat Controller went and fetched them. "Sorry! We didn't hear you," they explained.

It was the same next morning. The children were late for breakfast. Stephen was practising on an old guitar he had bought at a jumble sale and Bridget was singing. "I'll go and get them again," said the Fat Controller, getting up from the table. "I hope you won't be late anymore," Lady Hatt told Stephen and Bridget as they finally appeared. "Oh, no, grandma," they both replied. "We're very sorry."

But at lunch time, the children were out in the garden. Lady Hatt had to call them three times before they heard her. "We can't have this," Lady Hatt told her husband, that evening. "Leave it to me," he smiled, helpfully.

Next day, before leaving work, the Fat Controller took something out of his desk. When he arrived home, the Fat

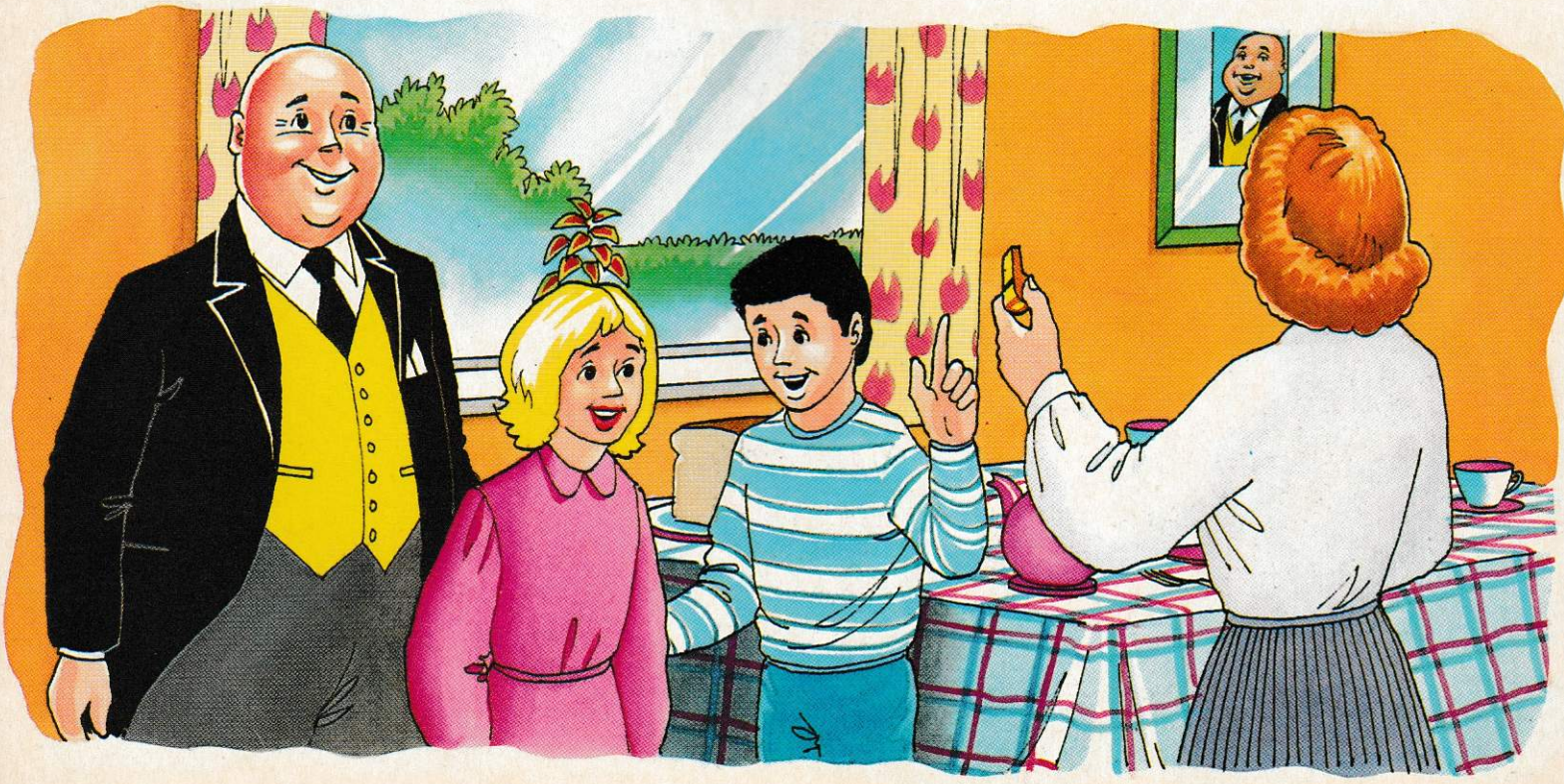




Controller helped his wife prepare the tea again. Stephen and Bridget were busy tidying up and dusting their bedrooms. "I'll call them for tea now," said Lady Hatt. "Use this," replied the Fat Controller, reaching into his pocket. He handed her his spare whistle which he had brought home from work! Lady Hatt gave it a try! PHEEP-PEEEEEEEP! the shrill sound carried right throughout the house.

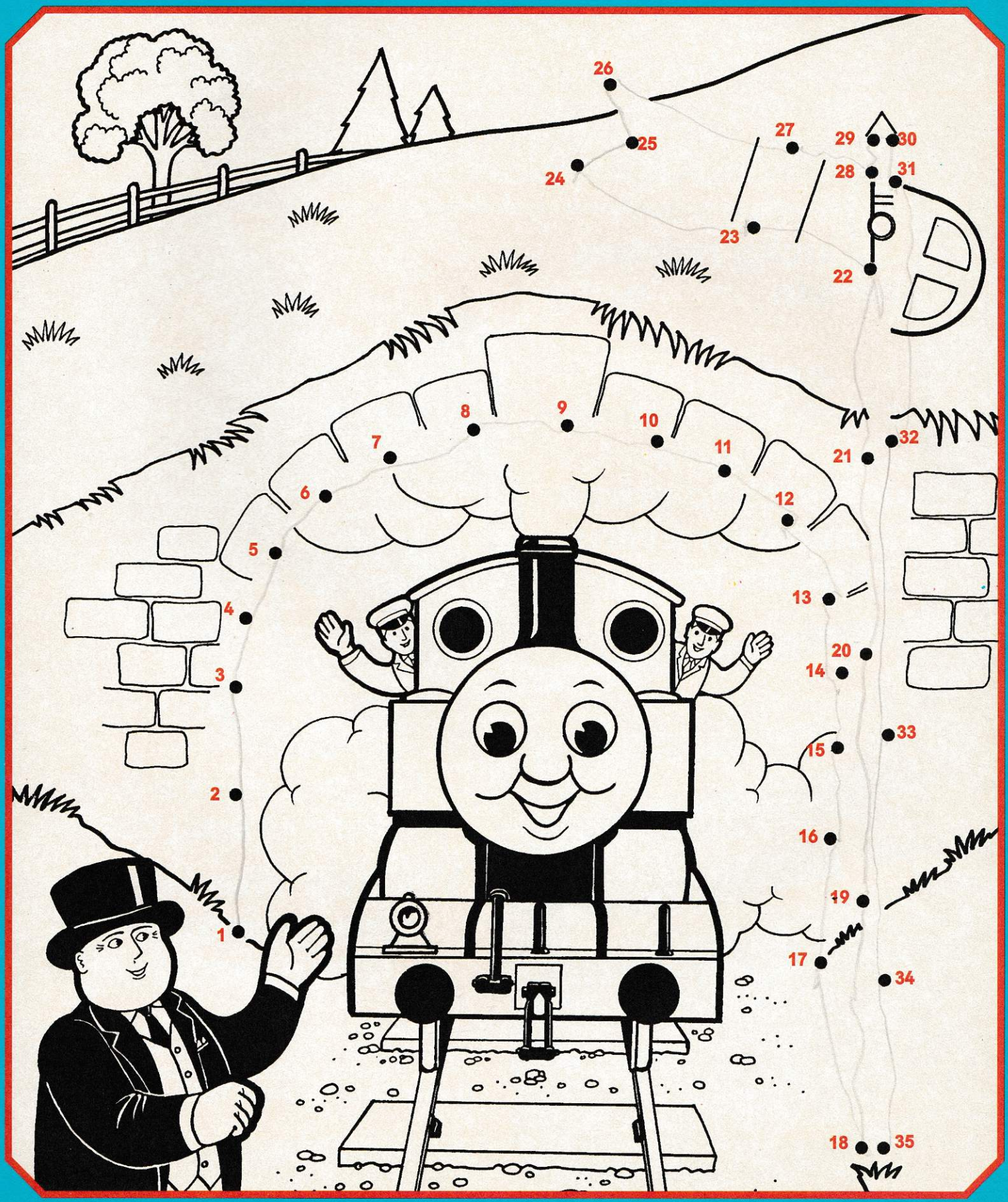
Stephen and Bridget were very surprised. The children heard it clearly and came downstairs straightaway. "It sounds as if we're at the Main Station," said Stephen. puzzled. "Who blew that whistle?"
"I did," smiled Lady Hatt. "From now on, I'll use it as a signal whenever a meal is ready." "But where did you get it?" asked Bridget. "It's the one Grandpa uses for his engines!" said Stephen. "Just like his engines, we'll never be late now!" Bridget added, laughing.

THE END



Dot to dot!

Join the dots to see where Thomas has been!



When you have finished colour this page!

Competition time!

DEKKERTOYS

10 lucky readers can win *both* a Thomas Lantern Torch and a Musical Animated Television!

These fantastic prizes are a must for every Thomas fan!

For your chance to win, answer this easy question:

What's the name of the grumpy old steamroller?

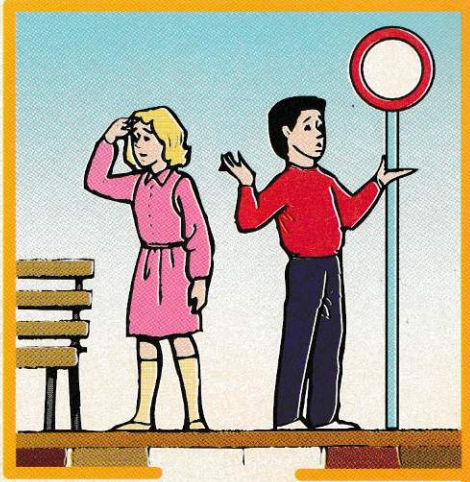
Send your answer on a postcard to: Thomas/243 Competition, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ.

All entries must be received by 12th February 1997.

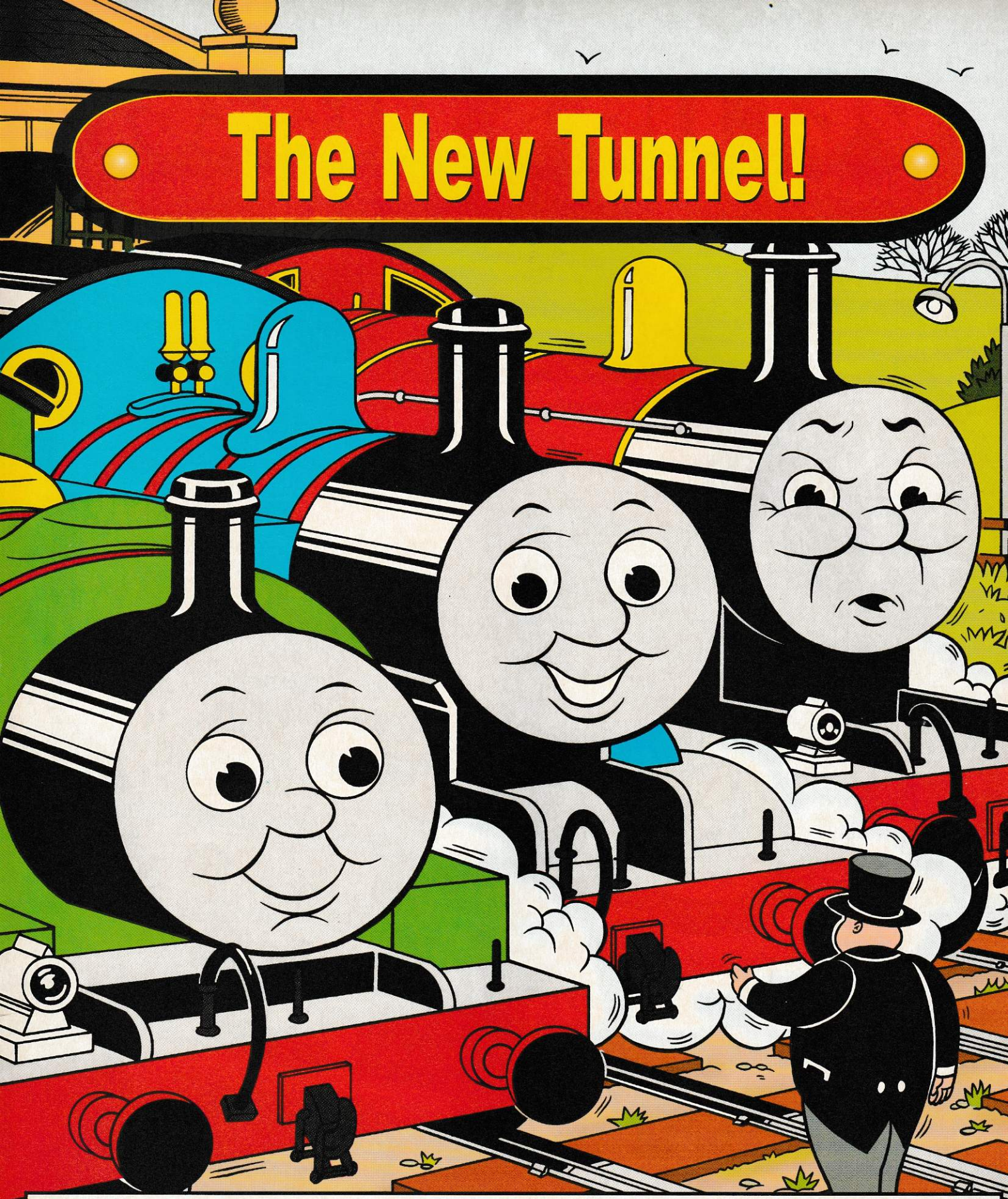
This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of participating companies. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

Bertie's maze!

Stephen and Bridget are waiting at the bus stop,
but where is Bertie?
Can you help him find the children?

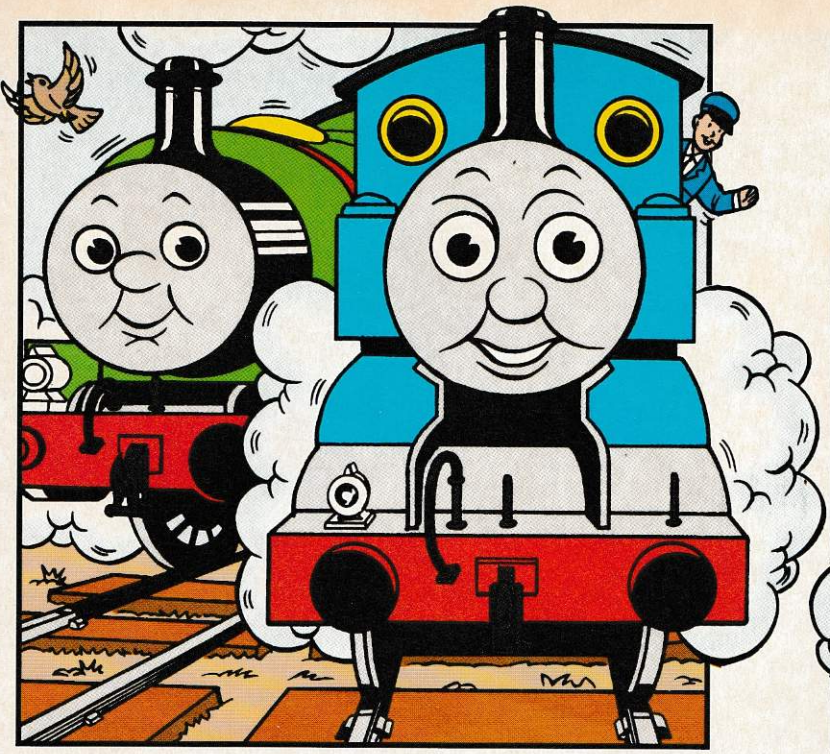


The New Tunnel!

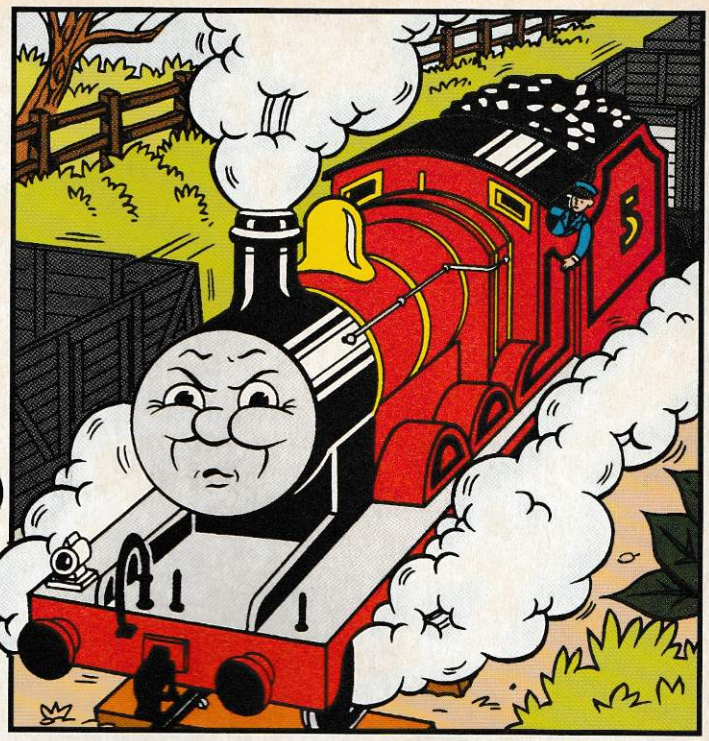


1. "A big new tunnel is going to be built on the Island," announced the Fat Controller to all the engines one morning. "And I'm afraid it's going to mean a lot of hard work!"

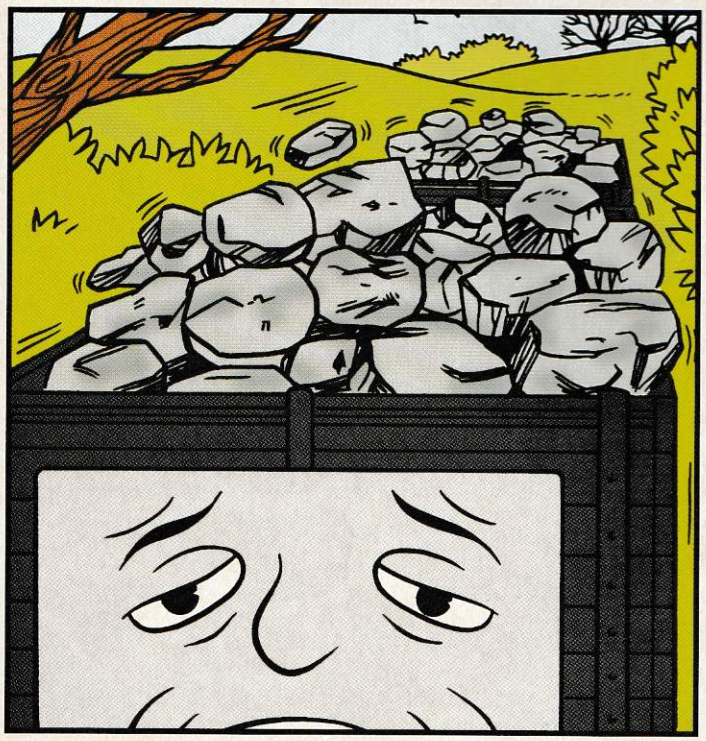
2. "Percy, Thomas and James will have to help carry away all the rock that is to be dug out," ordered the Fat Controller. Thomas and Percy grinned but James just huffed!



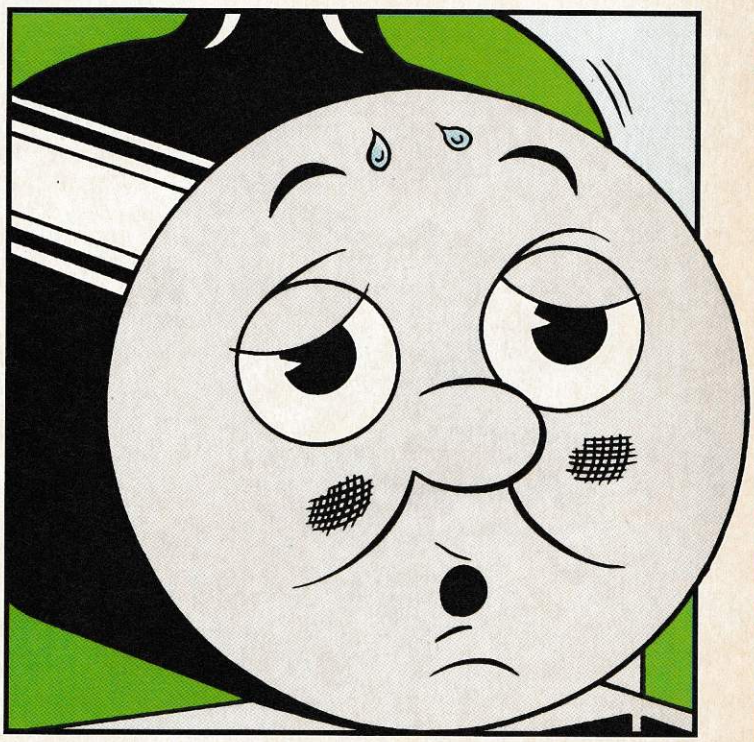
3. The work started the very next day. "Isn't it exciting to work on such an important project!" whistled Thomas. "Oh, yes!" puffed Percy. "What Useful engines we are!"



4. "Useful engines indeed!" snorted James. "It's going to be hard work and trouble. We've been given all the oldest most troublesome trucks you know! It's just not fair!"



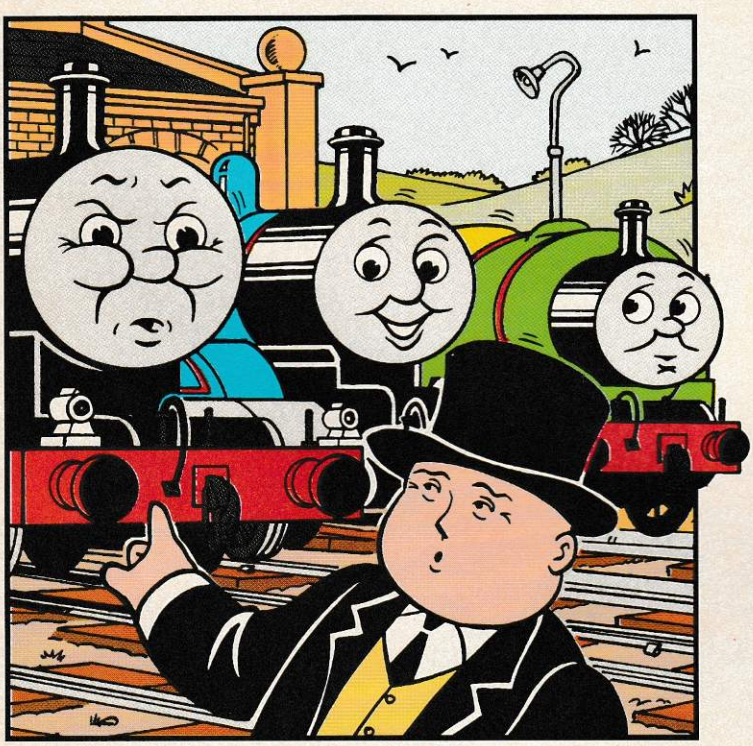
5. And it really was hard work! The trucks were not happy, of course, and they moaned as they clattered along. "Rotten rock, hard and heavy, rotten rock, hard and heavy!"

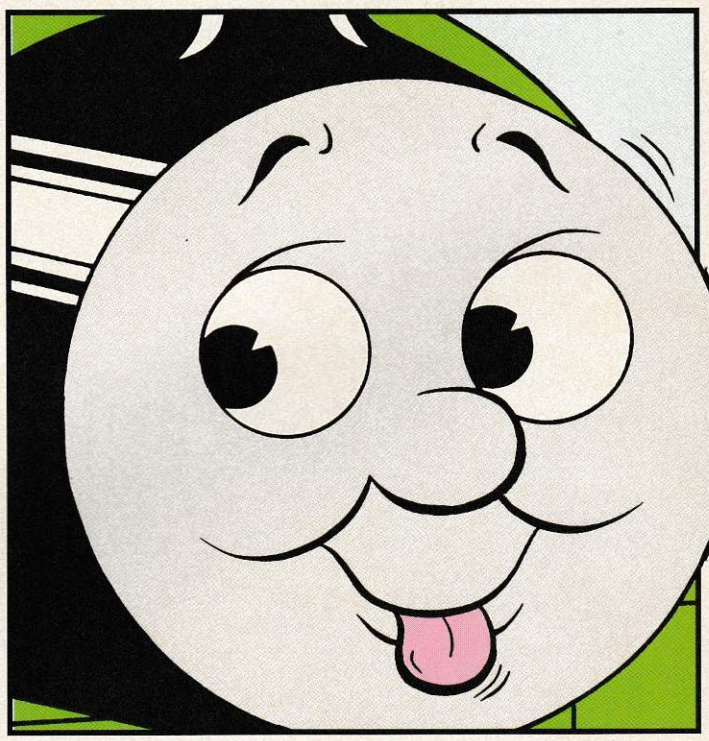


6. Percy found the work very tough. He huffed and puffed with the heavy loads and struggled to keep up with Thomas. "Take it easy Percy, it's not a race!" Thomas called.

7. Thomas enjoyed working on the new tunnel. He loved watching the workmen while he was being loaded up. "Just think, we'll be steaming through there soon!" he said.

8. But James had never been so grumpy. "I'm too good for this rough work!" he grumbled. "I was made to pull passengers in smart carriages, not tatty trucks full of rubbish!"



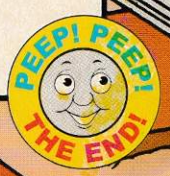


9. The Fat Controller knew it was hard work. "Don't worry, you're getting the best coal and a wash down every night," he said. "So, please cheer up James!"

10. But James wasn't interested. Percy pulled faces to try to make him laugh and Thomas told jokes, but nothing worked. "Oh grow up you silly engines!" James growled.

11. The tunnel was finally completed and the Fat Controller was very pleased. "We're going to have a special opening ceremony and I need one engine to be on duty," he said. "Poor Percy, you look worn out and James you haven't really been interested in helping with the tunnel. Thomas, you can have the job!" Thomas beamed but James was silent.

12. James wished he had never complained. He knew that Thomas deserved the treat. On the big day, the Fat Controller and Lady Hatt rode in one of Thomas' carriages along with the Mayor. He was going to open the new tunnel. After the Fat Controller's speech, the Mayor cut the ribbon. Thomas was the first to steam through the tunnel. He proudly whistled!



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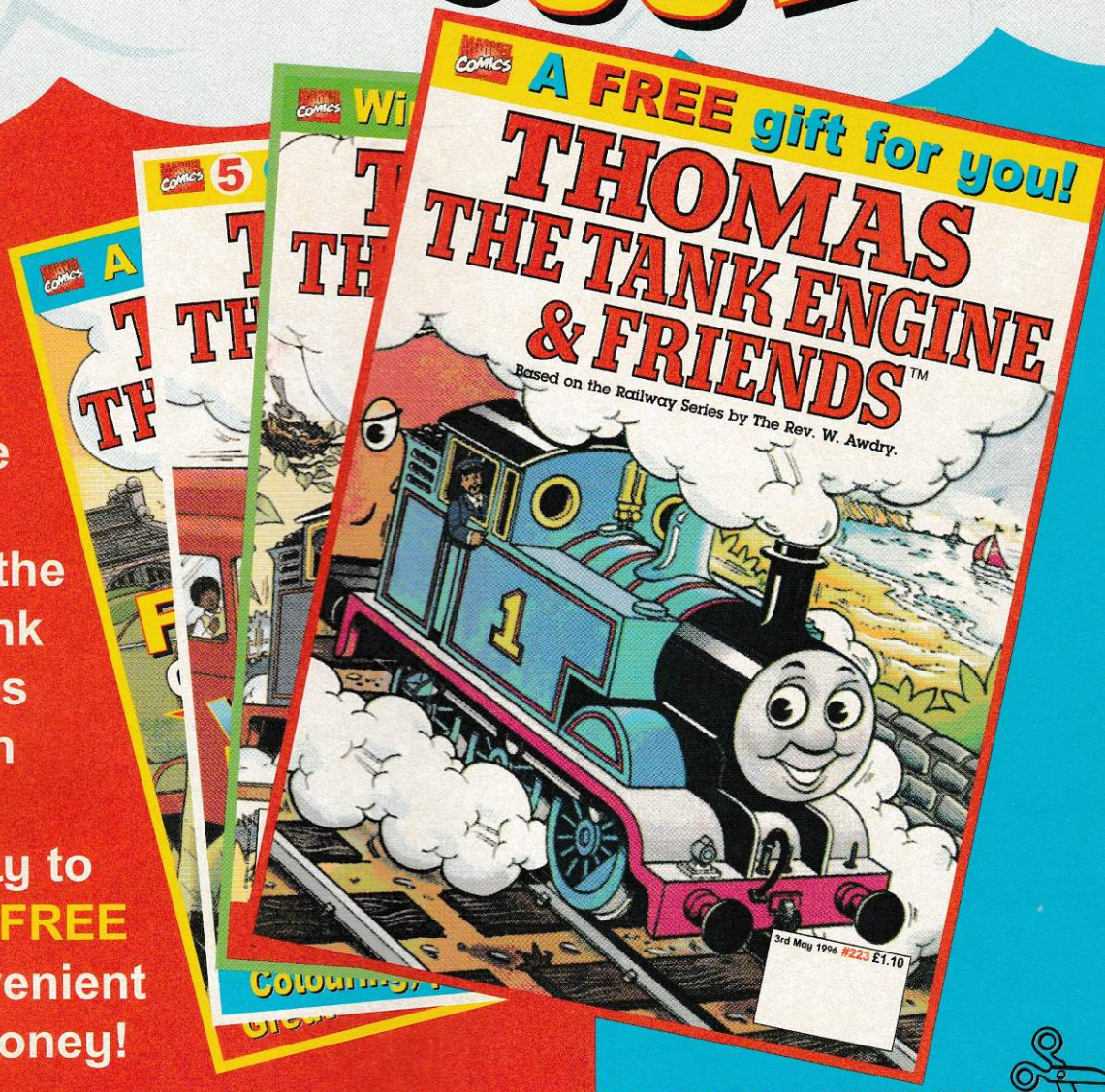

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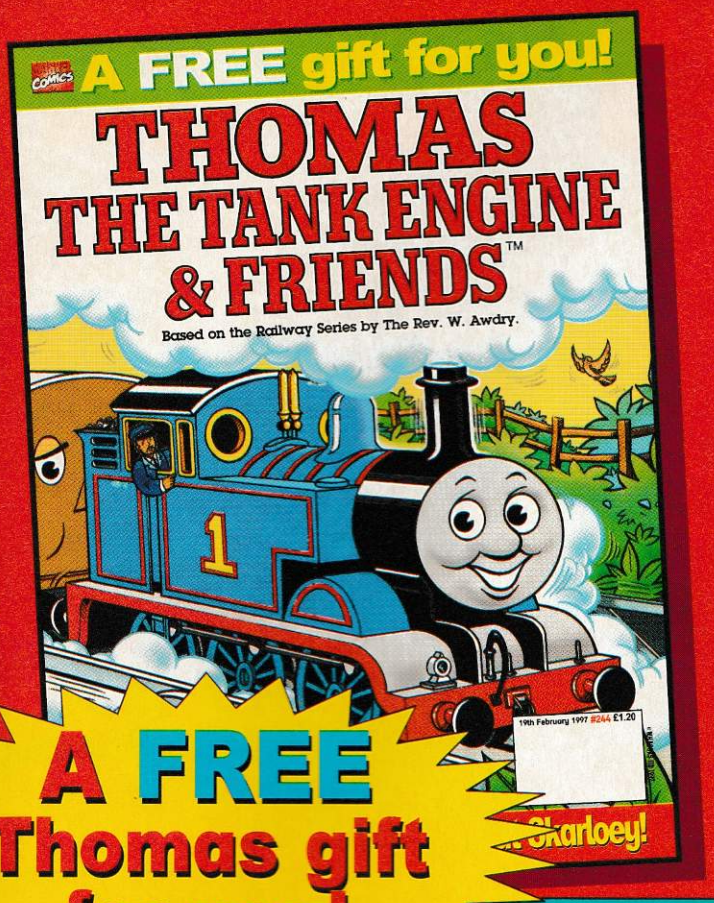

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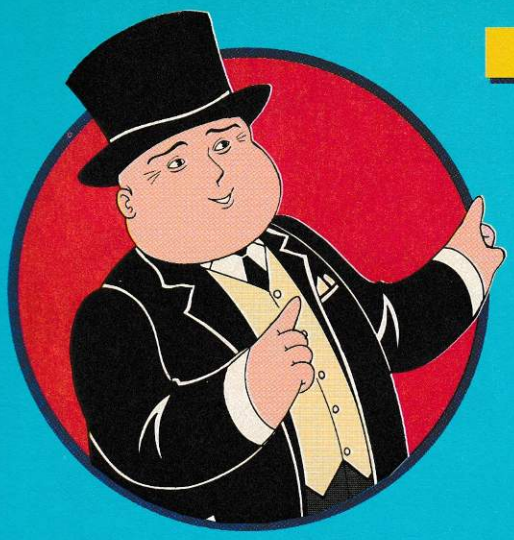

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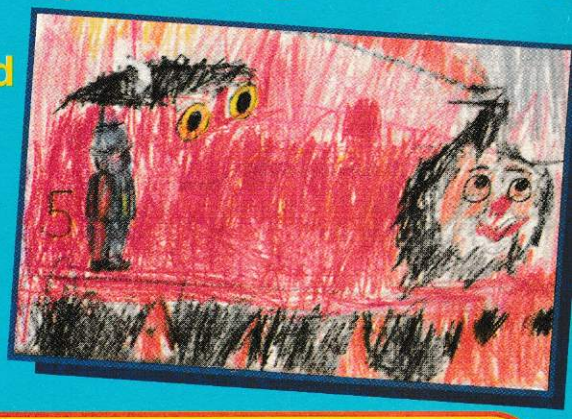
Please send your letters, pictures and drawings to Mail Train, Thomas, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ.

A splendid looking James by Lee Atkins!



Star Letter

Dear Fat Controller,
Do Thomas and his friends go to sleep when it's bedtime?

From Liam Stalker, aged 4.

Actually my engines work so hard they fall asleep quite quickly. I sometimes hear them whispering but Gordon is a good story-teller and he can usually send them to sleep.

The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win a Thomas remote control model!

Prize Poem!

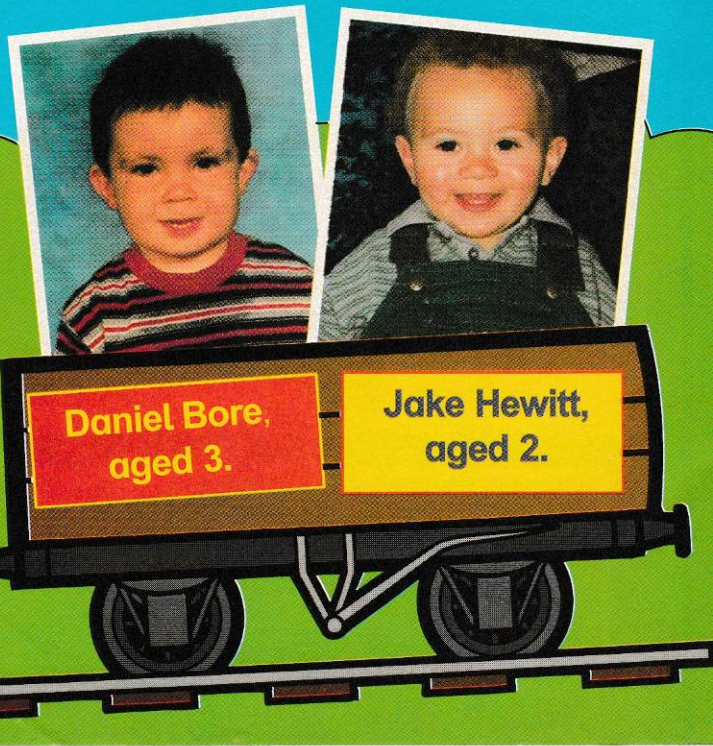
Jessica Barnes, aged 6, sent us this excellent poem!

Duncan is the smart
gold engine,
Who's a good little soul.
But he usually feels
overworked,
And likes to rock 'n' roll!

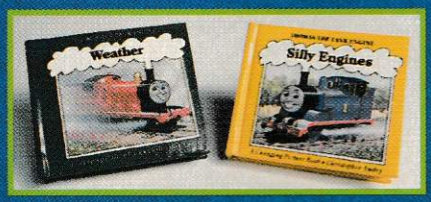
Happy Birthday

To..

Nita Brown, aged 6,
George Pitt, aged 3,
Jake Goddennough, aged 3 &
Jake Hewitt, aged 2.

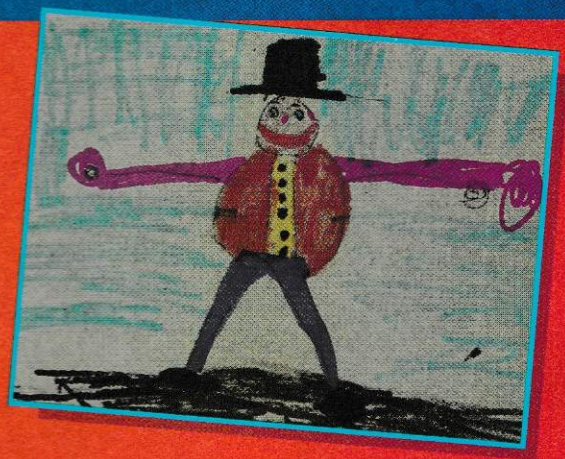


ail train!



Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a special **Thomas Changing Picture Book.**

I look great! A big thank you to Alex Console, aged 5.



A picture of Culdee on Mount Snowdon from James Smart, aged 7!

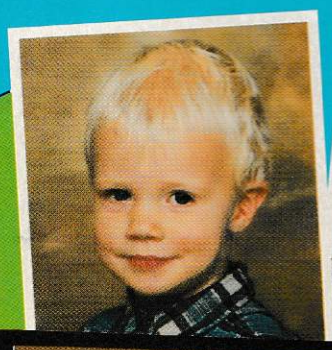
Percy's Jokes

Have you got a favourite joke or funny story? Why not send it to Percy!

What's white and goes upwards?
A stupid snowflake!
Cameron Comer, aged 7.

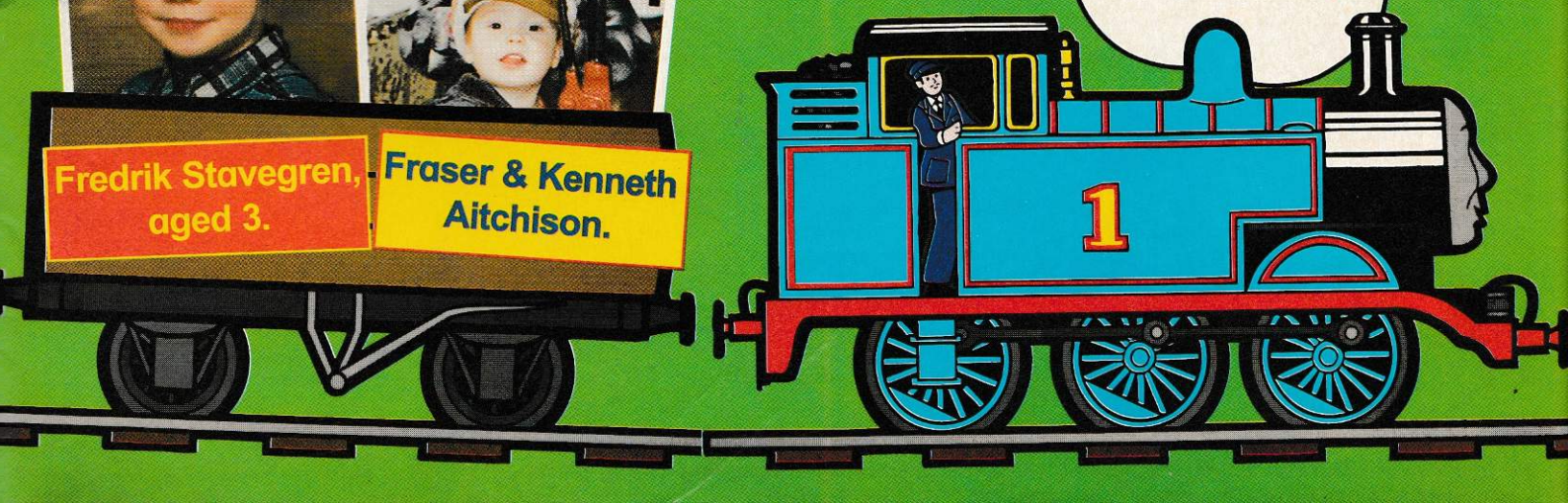
What dog can you eat?
A hot dog!
Poppy Muir, aged 3.

How do you start a flea race?
One, two, flea, go!
Paul Smith, aged 4.



Fredrik Stavegren, aged 3.

Fraser & Kenneth Aitchison.



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THE TANK ENGINE
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